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Abdul Shafi favours suspension of talks

BEIRUT (AP) — The Palestinian peace talks delegation leader said in an interview published Saturday that he personally advocates suspending the talks because of the absence of progress with Israel. But Haidar Abdul Shafi said a postponement of the talks, now in their 10th round, would jeopardise the unity of Arab countries involved in the process. "I'm still personally against participating in the talks, and I believe it's better to adjourn the negotiations because they did not produce any progress," Dr. Abdul Shafi said in an interview with the daily Al Hayat newspaper. "However, the suspension of the talks would be very difficult because it could endanger the Arab unity," he added.

Israel to 'legalise' 5,000 Palestinians

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Israel is going to legalise the status of about 5,000 Palestinians in the occupied territories as part of a family reunification programme, Israeli negotiators said here Saturday. Palestinians were informed of the decision Thursday during a meeting of the committee on human rights in the occupied territories, said an Israeli delegation source at the 10th round of Middle East peace talks in Washington. The Israeli government's decision affects mainly women and children who were given three-month visitor permits which expire at the end of September to enter the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Iran insists on Islamic approach

CRANS, Switzerland (R) — Iran reaffirmed on Saturday that it could not accept a declaration proclaiming a universal approach to human rights at a United Nations conference in Vienna. Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said consensus on a final document in Vienna could not be reached unless other countries "accepted that Muslim countries have the right to maintain Islamic values." "It has to be accepted that we observe human rights in the framework of Islamic values. We are not ready to compromise on the issue of Islamic values," Mr. Velayati told reporters at a forum on Eastern Europe in the Swiss resort of Crans.

Robinson fuels row over Adams meeting

BELFAST (AFP) — Irish President Mary Robinson remained unrepentant Saturday in face of a diplomatic row about her meeting here with Republican leader Gerry Adams. The meeting Friday, during which Mr. Robinson said she shook Mr. Adams' hand, has sparked a major controversy as some British sources fear it could jeopardise delicate negotiations on the future of Northern Ireland. And it was revealed that British Prime Minister John Major had registered his disapproval of her visit with Irish Premier Albert Reynolds earlier in the week.

Ukrainian premier says he will quit

MOSCOW (AFP) — Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma said Saturday he planned to resign next week at the start of the next sitting of parliament, Itar-Tass news agency reported. It would be his third attempt to resign in as many weeks. Speaking to metallurgists in the south-eastern city of Dnepropetrovsk, Mr. Kuchma said his decision was based on the move by President Leonid Kravchuk to create a seven-member committee to run the country to avoid an economic catastrophe.

Clinton, Yeltsin meet in Tokyo on July 10

TOKYO (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will meet in Tokyo on July 10 a day after an annual summit of Group of Seven (G-7) heads of government has ended, Kyodo news agency said Saturday. Kyodo, quoting Russian diplomatic sources, said Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin during their second meeting are to discuss issues including nuclear disarmament and U.S. aid to Russia. They first held talks in Vancouver, Canada in April.

Highly positive signs after King-Clinton meeting

President promises strong role in peace process; strain in ties seen put behind

Combined agency despatches

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton has told His Majesty King Hussein that he planned to take a more direct role in Middle East peace talks and both said tangible progress was possible this year.

Mr. Clinton and the King held their first meeting and it was clear the new president was trying to put behind him the strained ties between the United States and Jordan over Amman's refusal to back Washington in the 1991 Gulf war.

"We're moving toward a good relationship between the two," said White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers.

"The two leaders discussed the importance of strong enforcement of United Nations sanctions against Iraq," she said. "The two countries will continue to work closely in pursuit of that goal."

Ms. Myers said Mr. Clinton and King Hussein reaffirmed "their shared commitment to

achieving tangible progress in the Middle East peace process this year."

"President Clinton reaffirmed that the United States is committed to serving as a full partner, an honest broker in these historic negotiations," she said.

Mr. Clinton, Ms. Myers said, also told the King that "he was going to take a real direct role in it and we look forward to progress."

Asked to elaborate on the direct role, Ms. Myers said only that Mr. Clinton "plans to just make sure that the process moves forward."

Questioned about the progress at peace talks under way in Washington, King Hussein said earlier, "we are still a long way from getting there, but there is no other alternative."

King Hussein expressed hope that the Palestinians would be "able to speak for themselves and contribute their share in shaping the peace that is comprehensive and that is so very, very impor-

tant to all of us."

It was the King's first visit to the United States since Mr. Clinton took office in January.

Mr. Clinton emphasised the importance of Jordan's enforcement of U.N. sanctions against neighbouring Iraq. Ms. Myers said, but she declined to comment on the recent media reports about Jordan's role during the Gulf war.

"We talked a lot about the peace process," Mr. Clinton said as he bade farewell to King Hussein. "I learned about the King's position. He learned about the United States' position. We talked a little about Iraq and the imperative nature of continuing to enforce those sanctions and being very tough on them."

Mr. Clinton said they also discussed efforts to democratise Jordan and modernise its economy. "We talked a little about Iraq and the imperative nature of continuing to enforce those sanctions and being very tough of them," Mr. Clinton told reporters after

King Hussein's motorcade carried him away.

But privately, senior officials made clear this was not viewed as a serious impediment to U.S.-Jordanian ties.

"I believe the government of Jordan is working hard to enforce U.N.-mandated sanctions against Iraq. There've been some lapses but these have generally been corrected when pointed out to senior Jordanian officials," a senior administration official said.

About \$35 million in U.S. economic aid for 1992 and 1993 is still frozen pending congressional approval which would follow certification by the president that Jordan is complying with the sanctions.

The money must be approved by Sept. 30 but no date has been set for the issue to be raised in Congress.

The King, 57, is to check in to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, for tests next week. The meeting came two days

after reports that said Jordan gave military help to Iraq during the Gulf war including the sharing of intelligence information.

A White House official said Mr. Clinton did not raise the report with King Hussein, and Ms. Myers said there was "good personal chemistry between the two."

Also attending Friday's private talks were Secretary of State Warren Christopher and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake.

Questioned after the meeting whether the U.S. administration had asked Jordan to apply the Iraqi embargo more vigorously, Mr. Lake simply stated that the importance of the sanctions had been discussed.

Ms. Myers said Mr. Clinton and King Hussein also discussed Jordan's progress toward democratisation and respect for human rights, she said, adding that the president expressed his support for King Hussein's "courageous" efforts in this regard and noted that "this work will encourage

long-term stability and prosperity in Jordan."

During a photo opportunity in the Oval Office earlier in the day, Mr. Clinton appreciation for the "support of the peace process that the King has demonstrated so consistently."

"I have the feeling that maybe all the parties have now concluded not that they have no differences, but that there is no alternative to peace," Mr. Clinton said. "And if we do see this thing through and find some resolution, that will be in no small measure because King Hussein for so many years has persistently pushed us toward peace. And the United States will do what it can to help achieve that."

Following is the text of a statement released by the White House following King Hussein's meeting with President Clinton:

President Clinton and King Hussein of Jordan held a productive meeting which lasted for two hours. The two leaders discussed a wide range of issues, including

their shared commitment to achieving tangible progress in the Middle East peace process this year.

President Clinton reaffirmed that the United States is committed to serving as a full partner and honest broker in these historic negotiations. He stressed that negotiations are the only viable path to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace between Israel, the Arab states and the Palestinians.

The two leaders discussed the importance of strong enforcement of United Nations sanctions on Iraq. The two countries will continue to work closely in pursuit of that goal.

The president and King Hussein also discussed Jordan's progress toward democratisation and respect for human rights. President Clinton expressed his support for the courageous efforts of King Hussein in this regard, and noted that this work will encourage long-term stability and prosperity in Jordan.

Palestinian woman dies after tear-gassing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A 47-year-old Palestinian woman died Saturday after inhaling tear-gas in Jabalya refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip, Palestinians said.

They said Rabaa Al Shrafi, a vendor, was standing by her cart when Israeli soldiers fired tear-gas at people throwing stones nearby. She inhaled the gas, collapsed and died on the way to hospital, they said.

Military officials said Ms. Shrafi died from apparent heart failure unrelated to the tear-gas. Her body has been taken away for an autopsy to determine the exact cause of death, they said.

The army shot and wounded 15 Palestinians during stone throwing incidents in Jabalya on Saturday, Palestinians said.

A four-year-old child hit in the stomach was listed in serious condition and several other women were among those hurt in the incident.

The army sent reinforcements to the area.

Sources said 22 Palestinians had been wounded by army gunfire on the Gaza Strip since Friday night.

Two unknown assailants shot and seriously wounded an Israeli building site guard in the occupied West Bank on Friday night, military officials and Israeli Radio said.

The shooting took place on Mount Gilo, south of Jerusalem, they said.

The radio said two men arrived at the site and asked to talk to the guards. During the conversation one pulled out a gun and fired, wounding a guard in the stomach and legs.

The other guard managed to find cover and the two gunmen fled, the radio said.

Military officials said the army was scouring the area for the attackers.

Police and army combed the

area after the attack which happened close to the town of Beit Jala in the West Bank.

Policemen line up

A first group of Palestinians are set to go to Jordan Sunday to undergo police officer training as the spearhead of a new force to patrol the occupied territories, Palestinian sources said on Saturday.

The departure of the 28 men from the main towns on the West Bank has been delayed numerous times.

Israel proposed during peace talks in May an armed Palestinian police force for the five-year period of autonomous rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Candidates must be under 30 years old and school graduates with no criminal record, the sources said, but they refused to reveal how long the training period would last and what it

would involve.

None of the 28 are from the Gaza Strip, which is scheduled to send a group for training in Egypt at a future date.

The creation of a Palestinian police force was envisaged under the 1978 Camp David accords which brought peace between Israel and Egypt.

Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shaleh said the force had been proposed at the ninth round of bilateral peace negotiations in Washington but he gave no figures of 10,000-30,000 men.

The announcement led to protests by Jewish settlers who warned they would never obey Palestinians. The anti-Arab Kach movement has reportedly begun training its own vigilante force.

The creation of a Palestinian force has also provoked arguments among various Palestinian factions with those opposed to the peace process also rejecting the force.

Tunisian minister in Kuwait amid protests

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwaiti officials warmly welcomed Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia Saturday despite parliamentary criticism that his two-day visit was inappropriate because of Tunisian sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

"We welcome the brother as an envoy of the president (Zine Abidine Ben Ali), and as a bearer of a letter to his brother the emir," Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah told reporters at Kuwait airport.

"We say to him, 'you are welcome,'" he reiterated.

Mr. Ben Yahia, on his first visit since the Iraqi invasion of August 1990, said he would deliver a "letter of affection and respect," from Mr. Ben Ali to the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and meet other officials before leaving Monday.

"It is a great honour that my foot steps today on the land of the beloved, free, liberated and secure Kuwait. I will continue a dialogue that we started long years ago."

"If God wills, during my talks and meetings with the members of the Kuwaiti government we will reach an understanding of the situation in the Gulf and Maghreb."

Asked if he would discuss business links during his visit, he replied this was a matter for businessmen to discuss. He added that Kuwaiti investments in Tunisia had been maintained and Kuwaiti businessmen continued to be based in Tunisia.

Kuwait investments in Tunisia are mainly in real estate and agricultural development.

Kuwaitis were not thrilled by the Yahya's visit.

"You are not welcome," read the banner headline of Saturday's Al Anba daily that usually tows the government line.

"We tell you in the name of the Kuwaiti people that we refuse to forget the painful past and open a new page that ignores the blood of our martyrs, the chains of our prisoners and the pains of our people during the occupation ordeal," said the editorial.

Kuwait claims Iraq still holds about 850 Kuwaitis and other residents arrested during the occupation.

Interviews in a local daily with Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his foreign minister, Mohammad Salem Bassindawh, have been drawing similar responses over the past week.

The Tunisian minister was invited by the Kuwaiti government. But Sheikh Sabah told the state-run Kuwait News Agency recently that his country was "not in a hurry" to mend fences.

Nasser Al Sane of parliament's foreign affairs committee was earlier quoted as saying Kuwaiti public opinion opposed reconciliation with Tunisia.

Syria says Israel evading key issues

Combined agency despatches

SYRIA ACCUSED Israel Saturday of hedging in its Middle East peace negotiations to evade the issue of interest to the Arabs.

"No progress has been made because the Israelis act as if Arab lands were set for compromise and peace was a mere commercial deal," state-run Damascus Radio said.

The radio said that while the Arabs demanded "peace on all tracks, Israel resorted to equivocal methods to create a gap between the stands of Arab parties to the bilateral peace talks with the Jewish state."

It said delegations from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians had gone to Washington not for the "sake of compromising on their lands and rights or striking separate peace deals with the Israelis, but in order to build a just, comprehensive and strong peace."

The radio said the U.S.-sponsored peace process was still "on the zero scale" with the end of the first week of the 10th round of Washington talks.

Talks between Israel and Syria deadlocked with each side looking to the other to give ground. Israel's talks with Lebanon also took a sour turn.

Israel refused to say how much of the strategic Golan Heights it would be willing to return to Syria. And Syria declined to say what it might give Israel in the way of peace terms for a partial pull-back.

The Lebanese delegation took the position that until Israel agreed to withdraw from its "security" strip inside Lebanon's border there would be nothing to discuss in the talks.

The radio warned against leaving the peace talks in a "vicious circle," saying this would deprive them of their impetus and create a very dangerous situation in the Middle East.

It called on President Bill Clinton to accelerate his "active intervention" to translate Washington's role into that of a full partner in the peace talks by enforcing the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Restoration of Arab land is the key to peace," the radio said, "and no alternative would ever be accepted by the Arabs."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said in published comments Saturday the U.S. had said it wants the peace talks to succeed but it "is on probation" in its handling of negotiations as far as Syria is concerned.

"The American role now is on probation especially for the Syrian side ...," Mr. Sharaa said in remarks carried by the Syrian news agency (SANA).

Mr. Sharaa said that despite the lack of progress in the talks, he had been assured by officials of the Clinton administration that the U.S. wants the talks to succeed.

He said U.S. Secretary of State

Warren Christopher had told him in Vienna of the administration's desire to be a full partner and to see the talks through to a successful end.

"We hope this round of the Middle East peace talks and the coming rounds would prove that the United States played a fair and honest role to put U.N. Security Council resolutions into practice," Mr. Sharaa added.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Friday Israel expected an increased American role in the peace talks in the current round of negotiations.

"The United States will take on a slightly more active role," Mr. Rabin told Israeli Television. "This will at least give a chance for better results."

Israel had in the past rejected increased American involvement, preferring direct talks with the Arab sides.

Mr. Rabin also said he would prefer that the talks move to a higher diplomatic level, but that he doubted this would happen because the Arab sides insisted the present make-up. The talks are currently negotiated at ambassadorial level.

Meanwhile, in an attempt to stem a wave of right-wing protests against Mideast peace talks, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in remarks broadcast Friday that Israel would not remove settlements in the occupied West Bank.

He also said Israel has suggested that Jewish settlements "remain Israel's responsibility," during a proposed five-year autonomy period for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel Radio broadcast Mr. Peres' speech from the Thursday opening of a branch of the Labour Party headed by Mr. Rabin, at a West Bank settlement.

"We have told the Arabs and the Americans that we don't intend to remove any settlement, not just Oranit, but not one settlement in Judea and Samaria," Mr. Peres told an applauding crowd, using Israeli-given names for the West Bank.

He did not mention the Gaza Strip, an area Israel has proposed receive autonomy first.

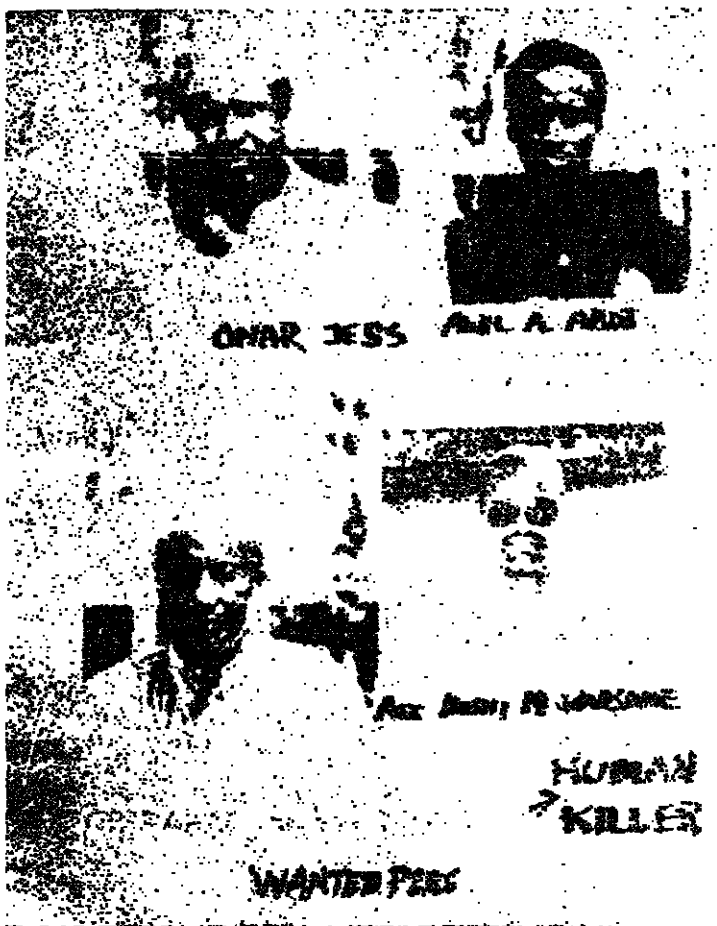
Mr. Peres suggested he hoped the Palestinians would change their minds and accept joint statehood with Israel.

"What will be in another five years from now, I don't know," Mr. Peres said of the post-autonomy stage.

He added that it "could be that the Palestinians will reach the conclusion one day that the best solution for them is a federation with Israel," or a joint state.

Mr. Peres' deputy, Yossi Beilin, said that it was likely Israel would insist on retaining the Jordan Valley in the West Bank in any settlement.

"We will have to insist, as is spelled out in the Labour Party manifesto, that this area, this strip along the Jordan River will be under Israeli control," Mr. Beilin told Israeli Television.



Wanted poster for Somali warlords Mohammed Farah Aided, Omar Jess, Awil A. Abdi and Ali Hashi Warsame displayed at U.N. headquarters in Mogadishu (AFP photo)

U.S. defends U.N. action in Somalia

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — The United States hit back Saturday at suggestions that United Nations troops in Somalia had lost control in bloody incidents in which civilians were killed.

"What coalition forces have been confronting were is totally alien to the customs and mores of their home cultures, international law and the Geneva Convention," said a statement by the U.S. liaison office in Mogadishu.

It described how a Pakistani officer, Captain Syed Riaz Manzoor, had been bayoneted repeatedly and "eviscerated, his throat slit, his eyes gouged out."

Capt. Manzoor is one of the soldiers of the U.N. force, UNOSOM, singled out in the American statement as carrying out "individual and group acts of courage and heroism."

Capt. Manzoor reportedly attempted single-handedly to cover the evacuation of soldiers wounded in an ambush on June 5, allegedly by forces of warlord Mohammad Farah Aided, before being overcome when he ran out of ammunition.

The U.S. statement says UNOSOM, "has been the object of a campaign of lies and innuendo as well as theatre pieces" staged by General Aided.

It denies suggestions that the actions of the Pakistanis on June 13, when some 20 Somali demonstrators were shot dead, was retaliation for Somali ambushes in which 23 Pakistani peacekeepers died on June 5.

The U.N. has ordered the arrest of Gen. Aided and said he would be charged with crimes against humanity.

U.N. military spokesman David Stockwell said Saturday that U.N. forces were "actively pursuing" the instructions to arrest Gen. Aided, described in the U.S. statement as having "made himself the enemy of the world's conscience."

"The statement says the 'real story' in Somalia is 'the victimisation of the U.N. peacekeepers/peacemakers — not the reverse.'"

Thousands of Somalis shouting Clinton is a warlord," demonstrated against the U.N. Saturday on the spot where Pakistani soldiers were gunned down two weeks ago.

"We don't need gelignite, we need charity," said one of about 5,000 supporters of Gen. Aided who gathered on October 21st road to protest against the deaths of 80 Somalis in unrest in the capital.

UNOSOM accused Gen. Aided of running a "shadowy gang of terrorists" and of corruption.

It said he used "lies, exaggerations and disinformation to mask his own systematic acts of brutality against UNOSOM peacemakers and cynical manipulation of his people."

UNOSOM said Gen. Aided had preyed on relief before U.N. military intervention in December and had no interest in peace because he intended to take over Somalia as president.

"Peace is a prospect that was distinctly unprofitable and unsettling for a man who aspired to use his ill-gotten fortune and shadowy gang of terrorists in order to become Somalia's next dictator," it said in a statement handed out a briefing.

Two Harrier jump jets from the USS Wasp flew over this

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

Police hold 22-year-old male in murder of sister in Eidun

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — According to police reports, a 22-year-old male from Eidun shot and killed his sister Friday and later gave himself up to the authorities.

The unidentified man was said to have told police in the Irbid governorate that he shot his sister because of what he termed her bad conduct. Police sources declined to give further details except that investigations were continuing into the case and that the suspect is now in custody awaiting trial.

Meanwhile, police in the Jweideh district south of Amman have apprehended suspects in last Wednesday's killing of a 76-year-old woman.

The woman, who lived in the Jweideh Home for the Aged and identified only as GHN, was said to have been attacked by two men who had entered the building allegedly to steal jewellery from the resident senior citizens.

The police said the woman was hit several times with an iron pipe.

They said two men, whose identities were later established, had escaped with two gold bracelets and earrings that were on the person of woman during the attack.

The police said they found the woman dead in her room.

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqaer set up a special committee to study the situation at the senior citizens' home. The committee said the residence is in need of supervisors on the premises 24 hours a day.

The identities of the suspects were not disclosed and police said investigations were continuing.

Licences to be issued for four-storey residences

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Mayor Muhammad Al Bashir Saturday passed instructions to various heads of municipal departments in Amman to start issuing licences for four-storey residential buildings and the addition of one floor to existing three-storey buildings.

Urging interested building owners to submit applications for the licences, Mr. Bashir said the licences will be issued in implementation of amended regulations passed last April.

The move comes amid a construction boom in the country prompted by the housing needs of the tens of thousands of expatriate families who returned to Jordan in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Amendments to the regulations also aim at encouraging investments in housing, said Mr. Bashir in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Bashir recently returned to Amman from a tour of slaughterhouses in Austria, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and France.

In a statement to Petra, Mr. Bashir Saturday said that he toured modern slaughterhouses run by municipalities and also inspected the latest methods of street traffic control, including how to avoid traffic jams.

The Amman municipality lately assigned a plot of land on which it plans to set up a modern slaughterhouse that would serve the needs of the ever-growing population in Amman and its suburbs, said Mr. Bashir, adding that the tour abroad will now help the municipality to announce a tender for its construction.

Furthermore, the municipal delegation has familiarised itself with the various systems used in garbage disposal and the types of equipment and machinery used in the process of disposing of refuse, as well as prospects of recycling the waste paper and cardboard.

5-day workshop to plan health, environment strategy for Mediterranean zone

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 12 Arab and foreign countries gathered in Amman Saturday for a five-day workshop on preparing a regional strategy for a healthy and safe environment in the Mediterranean zone.

A spokesman for the Health Ministry, which is organising the meeting in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), said the delegates will discuss the basic elements of such a regional strategy.

The delegates will review national health strategies of each participating country in planning common medium and long-term strategies that would be implemented through the help of WHO in the near future, he said.

In an address at the opening session, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas said there was a need for the participants to find ways to safeguard their countries from radiation and chemical substances that permeate food, clothing and water, as well as means of stemming the danger of smoke.

"We fear not the growing number of environmental elements which tend to harm human health, but rather the prospect of not being able as humans to defend ourselves from such harmful elements," said the minister.

Jordan along with the countries of the Mediterranean, said Dr. Malhas, feels that people's lives are endangered and therefore efforts should continue to fight off the pollutants.

Hussein Al Jaziri, the WHO regional director, told the meeting that a common strategy was necessary to fend off the danger.

Environmental health is a subject that should be taken into consideration and school children ought to be taught how to help shape a safe environment for their own future, said Dr. Jaziri.

WHO, he said, was helping each participating country draw up intensive programmes aimed at safeguarding environmental health and is participating in related activities in cooperation with other world agencies and non-governmental organisations.

Dar Al Dawaa to start expansion

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dar Al Dawaa, one of five Jordanian pharmaceutical firms is shortly inaugurating its first expansion project aimed at boosting production and sales.

Mohammad Fitani, the company's general manager, Saturday, told the Jordan Times that the Dar Al Dawaa factory, located on the road to Na'ur west of Amman, has been selling 70 per cent of its production to Arab and foreign countries, with the rest going to the local market.

He said that Dar Al Dawaa sales have been bringing in an income of \$25 million to the company from the local and foreign markets.

"Most Arab countries, as well as nations in eastern Europe and Africa, are purchasing our products, considered of high quality and competitive with European and American products," said Mr. Fitani.

He said the five Jordanian pharmaceutical companies together cover 55 per cent of the total needs of the local markets for medicines, adding that more companies are due to open soon in order to help the country ensure drug self-sufficiency.

The cost of the expansion, which is considered the second stage in a three-stage expansion scheme has cost JD 5 million, said Mr. Fitani.

He said a ceremony for the formal inauguration of the new stage will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on June 26.

The Dar Al Dawaa factory, which started production in 1980, has been witnessing a 25 per cent annual growth over the years, and it is this fact that prompted it to carry out the expansion scheme, Mr. Fitani added.

Arab-American doctors group to hold convention in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab American Medical Association (AAMA) Sunday opens its 11th International Medical Convention in Amman with the participation of at least 200 American physicians of Arab origin.

About 130 research papers on topics ranging from orthopaedics and kidney diseases to plastic surgery and arthritis will be reviewed by the delegates during the five-day meeting.

A large number of Jordanian physicians will take part in the meetings, according to the convention president, Yousef Hamati.

Dr. Hamati said the meeting will include 14 discussion sessions on the various topics on the agenda.

The AAMA was founded in 1974 as a national, non-profit, non-political educational and charitable organisation, he said.

The Michigan-based AAMA has 22 chapters in the U.S., he added.

Cabinet approves basic structure of agriculture research, technology centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday approved the basic structure of the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer.

Last September, the cabinet decided to set up a council for the centre and entrusted then Minister of Agriculture Fayez Al Khawashneh with preparing the needed legislation that would give the centre administrative and financial independence.

The centre's main objective is to coordinate agricultural research and technology transfer activities among private and public institutions in the Kingdom and cooperate with similar institutions in Arab and foreign countries.

The centre will be based in Ein Basha area, near Baqa, and branches for it might be established in other parts of the Kingdom when needed. It will be run by a council comprising the minister of agriculture as chairman, the centre's director general as deputy chairman, the centre's secretary general, the Ministry of Agriculture's secretary general, representatives of the ministries of Planning and Water and Irrigation, one agriculture professor from each of the state universities to be nominated by the University President and an experienced researcher.

Also Saturday, the cabinet approved a recommendation by the Development Committee on establishing an industrial and agricultural company in the Ma'raq governorate.

In a meeting chaired by acting Prime Minister and Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar, the cabinet also approved the results of a study on poverty in Jordan, prepared by the Ministry of Social Development.

It approved the establishment of four industrial cities in Salt, Karak, Maan and Tafleeh and decided to entrust the concerned authorities with studying the prospect of establishing similar industrial zones in Zarqa and Ma'raq.

Meat, dairy industries to come under review in regional seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Cattle breeding and meeting the Arab World's needs for meat and milk will be the topics of a three-day symposium opening in Amman Tuesday with the participation of nine Arab states.

A spokesman for the Association of Cattle Breeders in Jordan, which is organising the meeting with the Arab Union and Food Industries, said the delegates will focus on the present livestock wealth of the Arab World, problems in cattle breeding, dairy food industries and the production of meat and milk.

Agriculture Minister Marwan Kamal will open the meetings which will also discuss the Arab World's needs for dairy products at present and in the future. Arab countries' needs for animal feed and prospects of making it available locally, the role of agricultural cooperatives in meeting the Arab World's needs for these products, common diseases affecting cattle in the Arab World and means of protection, scientific research intended to help protect the livestock wealth, the leather and tanning industries of the Arab World and ways to promote the dairy industry to ensure food security.

Taking part in the meetings will be Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Sudan, Morocco and Libya.



Marwan Kamal

and means of protection, scientific research intended to help protect the livestock wealth, the leather and tanning industries of the Arab World and ways to promote the dairy industry to ensure food security.

Union team returns from working visit to Denmark

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, led by Khaled Shreim, returned to Amman Saturday at the end of a week-long visit to Denmark upon the invitation of the Danish Workers Federation.

Talks during the visit covered cooperation in union work and coordination of workers' stands at international conference, said Mr. Shreim in a statement upon returning to Amman.

He said the Jordanian delegation toured several Danish workers' centres and were acquainted with the different services and activities pertaining to workers of different sectors, as well as their achievements and training programmes.



Jordan Times typesetter Mohammad Khair Al Subaihi has just graduated from Yarmouk University with a Bachelor's degree in French and German.

Mabrouk

Tour guide course opens Jordan, Lebanon, Syria reach tourism accord

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism Saturday opened a three-week training seminar for tour guides and announced the completion of talks with Syria and Lebanon on joint tourism projects.

A group of 20 potential tour guides are attending the seminar, which costs JD 400 per person, and is organised at the University of Jordan in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, according to Hamdi Al Hadidi, a ministry senior official who addressed the opening session.

The seminar coincided with the conclusion in Damascus of Syrian-Lebanese-Jordanian talks aimed at stimulating cooperation in tourism between the three countries in implementation of a 1974 agreement.

The ministers of tourism in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan signed an executive programme for the implementation of the agreement which also entails Jordan's participation in the annual Latakia "Friendship and Peace" tourism exhibition in August.

According to ministry sources, the Syrian and Jordanian ministers signed an agreement for the resumption of train service between Amman and Damascus, which had been disrupted for several years.

The operation of trains between the two capitals, said the sources, is covered by the 1974 agreement.

Minister of Tourism Yan'at Hikmat was scheduled to return to Amman Saturday evening.



Yan'at Hikmat

Nasri Atallah, the ministry of tourism secretary general, told the Jordan Times that the talks covered prospects for holding

Professors review problems in Arab university environments

By Tareq Ayoub
Special to the Jordan Times

IRBID — Universities in Arab World have fallen captive to Western style education and have seized to be centres for social, political and cultural change, the president of the African World University in Khartoum Hassan Makki, charged Saturday.

Speaking at seminar on "methods and curricular in the Arab World" organised by the International Islamic Federation of Student Organisation by the International Islamic Federation of Student Organisations at Yarmouk University, Dr. Makki added that Western and secular forces in Arab societies were responsible for the stagnation of the role of universities in the Arab World.

Dr. Makki said the Arab World needed universities that would build the students' character and bring them closer to their Arab and Islamic character. He said he supported the Islamisation of educational methods.

"The educational system of the West has failed to value the role of the woman in the society, the division of our educational system into religious and non-religious has shattered the students' personality in our universities."

Dr. Makki concluded by stressing that the solution for these problems has to include subjects related to Arab culture, religion and the use of the Islamic method of scientific research to build the personality of students.

Tackling the Arab university's role in social change, Yarmouk University professor Fathi Malkawi said universities were controlled by Arab governments and are being financed by industries. He said instead of leading reform in the Arab World professors have become only consumers of media preachings. Dr. Malkawi said society has lost confidence in university professors. He supported Dr. Makki, emphasis on the importance of the Islamisation of education. He added that two groups of intellectuals are influencing change at universities, the Islamists and secularists.

The seminar, which was attended by student representatives from Sudan, Yemen, Tunis, Mauritania, Egypt and Jordan, will end June 20.



A general view of the Jordan Pavilion at the 31st Import Fair Berlin. The 1993 fair, an international consumer goods fair focusing on textiles, leather goods, gifts and accessories for the home, attracted 975 participants from 70 countries and territories to the Berlin Exhibition Grounds.

Jordan's 24th visit to Berlin import fair brings firm orders for manufacturers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan returned to the Import Fair Berlin this year with 12 manufacturing companies, including newcomers Jordan Carpet Manufacturing Company and Al-Abaya Stores and several contacts made during the event placed firm orders later.

On display between June 9 and 12 were an assortment of traditional products, such as carpets, dresses, ceramics and Dead Sea salts.

The latter had already been heavily promoted in Berlin in March during the International Tourism Trade Fair, which was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Jordan pavilion director Lou'at Ayoub stressed the necessity of attendance at the prestigious trade event. "It is very important for us to show at this fair because Germany is such an important market for Jordan, and every year we try to show new products," said Mr. Ayoub, who is with the Jordan Export Development & Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCC) in Amman.

Follow-up business after the fair has always proved good since Jordan started attending the fair in 1966, according to a statement by the German Company for Exhibitions, Fairs and Congresses.

Germany is Jordan's third most important export market following the United States and the United Kingdom.

Carpets and Dead Sea salts are the principal products exported to Germany.

Mr. Ayoub said Jordan is now looking to expand its garment sector, and delegates at the fair were eager to promote products from the garment industry among German and European buyers for department stores, mail order catalogues and wholesalers.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince visits military formation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday visited one of the formations of the southern military region where he was received by the commanders of the military region and the unit. After a briefing on the formation's training programmes and duties assigned to it, Prince Hassan toured its various sites and met with its officers and soldiers. The Crown Prince was accompanied on the visit by acting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Major-General Mahmoud Hammad.

Princess Basma opens Arab art exhibit

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday opened an Arab contemporary art exhibition at Abaad Art Hall, sponsored by Hisham Hijawi Scientific Establishment in cooperation with Amman Bank for Investment and the Jordan Kuwait Bank. The exhibition includes works by 40 leading artists from Bank. The opening ceremony was attended by Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, senior officials and several ambassadors. Proceeds from sales at the opening will go to benefit charity projects in the Kingdom.

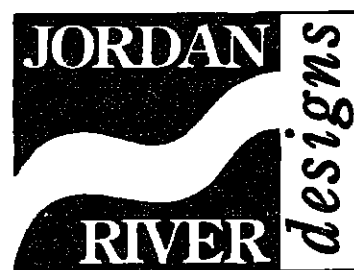
WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of watercolours, entitled "Landscapes of Jordan," by Prof. Elmar Dittmann at the Phoenix Art Gallery, Gardens Street.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artists Nawal Abdullah Kattan and Dodi Tabbaa at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Japanese paintings and photos at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rasan at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshbedia Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.

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For a better ride

TAXI IN Jordan are like the weather in Britain. Everybody talks about them but no one seems to be able to do anything about them. With most of them run down, and their drivers in perpetually bad mood, the talk about taxis has to be mostly negative, and it is. Since taxi service in a modern society is a necessity, not a luxury, it is only natural for citizens to look at problems they face in this sector and try to find just why they have a lot to complain about. But, first, it is the other side of the story that has to be looked at.

Aware that the service they provide to customers is less than adequate, taxi drivers say they have their own grievances too. Those drivers complain of excessive regulations. They are allowed to operate only within limited zones; they have to obtain "a movement order" from the offices they belong to every three hours or so; they cannot play taped music in their cars; they are required to keep some form of ID plate inside that is neither legible nor visible. Taxi owners also complain, and rightly so, that fares are too low to cover fuel expenses and driver wages. And because of government monopoly over licences, charges of corruption — of huge sums paid to obtain a taxi office licence — are rife. Drivers in particular complain that they make very little money after paying fuel and the owners' fixed daily share. On top of that, taxi owners and drivers union seem to be plagued with corruption. Drivers complain of extra charges which the union levies. And despite complaints by them that they are generally picked on by traffic police, it seems the authorities are unable to improve the quality of the service altogether.

Probably what is needed is a review of the whole issue. The authorities, the owners, the drivers, and most importantly the users, need to meet, discuss the problems at hand and come up with proper solutions for everyone's satisfaction. Customers will certainly not object to pay a slightly higher price for a much better service. And owners and drivers will certainly want to improve the service if it means more income. Drivers should themselves get a better deal. Certainly if they secure more income they will pay more attention to the way they dress, look and behave. The authorities meanwhile have a great interest in improving everybody's lot. An efficient taxi service is both necessary and beneficial to the image and reputation of the country. Tourism, being a major generator of national income, can depend, among other things, on clean, swift and decent taxi service. The authorities are, therefore, required to make sure that only clean and well-kept cars are used as taxis; that taxi drivers are taught at a special training school how to behave towards passengers before they obtain their licences; that complaints are made possible and are processed in the swift manner; that violators are deprived of their licences.

Those who choose to use taxis certainly need to have a proper service with the highest standard. They both deserve and expect the best.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'i daily Saturday criticised Japan for seeking to end the Arab boycott of Israel. Japan has chosen the wrong moment to declare its intentions which it plans to declare openly at the industrial nations conference in Tokyo next month, said the paper. Japan's recent reception of an Israeli economic delegation and its formation of a special task force to stimulate economic ties with Israel is also ill-timed, continued the daily. It is noticed that Japan's moves coincide with the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations which have so far achieved no progress, said the daily. Indeed, such a move can only be considered as an encouragement, by Japan, for the aggressors to pursue their violation of international laws, charged the paper. It said, that Japan's gift to Israel comes at a time when the Israeli authorities pursue mal-practices against the Palestinian population. No one can oppose Japan's moves to speed up the peace process and to end the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 and the exchange of land for peace, said the paper. But it said that Japan's move is ill-timed and can only be considered as a reward to Israel for its actions and practices. The paper urged Japan to be careful and not to endorse Washington's continued bias towards Israel because, it said that such a move can only harm its own ties with the Arab world.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Saturday criticised the U.N. peacekeeping forces for their actions in Somalia. Why don't the multinational forces flex their muscle in Bosnia-Herzegovina the way they are doing in Somalia? asked Khaled Mahadin. If the United Nations forces are able to exercise their power at will and cause destruction and kill people, why don't they show us some of this heroic deed in defence of the old people, children and young women in the former Yugoslavia? the writer asked. He said that the Arabs and the Muslims seem to have no value and they are worthless in the eyes of the Western nations. The killing of Somalis does not draw any reaction a pity from the Muslim nations, and is rather praised by the corrupt Western media and the Western intellectuals, charged the writer. These atrocities against the Somalis are being executed at a time when the international community is holding a world conference on human rights, said the writer. The "restore hope" campaign entails killing the young Somalis and the demolition of homes and hospitals, practices that are described as heroic by the Western media, added the writer. Citing a statement by the former French foreign minister as saying that the United Nations is being transformed into a tool for settling world issues, the writer said that the country is being implemented in the former Yugoslavia where innocent people are killed every day.

Welcome Jordan's King as a friend

By John K. Cooley

AMMAN — The United States and its allies have only a handful of truly loyal and disinterested friends at the top levels of the Arab and Muslim worlds. Among these, King Hussein of Jordan is in a class by himself. By inviting the King to a White House meeting last Friday, President Bill Clinton has taken the first big step towards ending U.S.-Jordanian misunderstandings over the Gulf war.

As Secretary of State Warren Christopher has acknowledged, misunderstanding of the motives of King Hussein still lingers in some backwaters of U.S. opinion. And the shadow extends to sectors of the U.S. Congress, when \$50 million in aid that Jordan was to receive in 1992 is being held up.

What King Hussein and his brother and heir-designate, Crown Prince Hassan, have fashioned for their people is little short of phenomenal. Working with a spectrum of Jordanian politicians,

academics and businessmen, they have fashioned the only true Arab democracy. Jordan is moving towards real, democratic national elections for a parliament next fall — the second since 1989, when the two brothers nudged Jordan's democratic experiment into high gear.

By legalising Muslim activist groups and some extremely secular leftist political bodies, King Hussein's successive governments have opened windows and doors to let in the fresh air of healthy ferment. This has permitted a truly free array of newspapers, magazines and television broadcasts. Jordan TV has become so popular among Arabs who can view it outside Jordan, such as King Hussein's former, pre-1967 subjects in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and in East Jerusalem, that neighbouring Syria has jammed the broadcasts for months.

With few exceptions, the chorus of the Jordanian media is truly liberal. And topics as diverse as censorship, abor-

tion, educational methods, women's rights and even Muslim-Christian relations necessarily produce some cacophony.

Sometimes the United States is a target. In March, when a Clinton invitation to the King seemed in doubt, some columnists and editors lambasted the United States for "bullying" Jordan with its State Department travel advisory of March 2. It warned Americans living or travelling here to be careful about possible terrorism; but this is virtually nonexistent in Jordan.

The travel warning, lifted March 31, walked these columnists, was "punishment" of Jordan by the United States for alleged violations of the economic embargo against its now intensely disliked neighbour, Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Actually, Jordanian security officials had warned the United States of a possible threat to tourist buses.

As for "embargo violations," it was Jordanian border guards, not U.S. officials or United Nations inspectors, who caught and halted truckloads of embargoed construction supplies from India headed for Iraq. Jordanians discovered the forged U.N. clearance papers. Despite this, some of the Jordanian media pundits denounced

what they saw as a craven attitude of their government towards imagined U.S. punishment. But the subject was soon dropped in favour of the debate in business community over looming new taxes.

The problem for King Hussein, as for Mr. Clinton, is raising revenue. Jordan has no oil, few salable minerals, and growing but still sparse manufactures. By speaking frankly about excesses and abuses of such Arab regimes as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, once benefactors, and more recently about Saddam Hussein, King Hussein bars further receipt of what he calls "charity." Jordan is on its own financially.

King Hussein deserves careful attention in Washington: both to his views on the need for more active U.S. involvement to reenergise the sagging Arab-Israeli peace talks, and on the formidable challenge of Islamic activism, one which he, almost alone among Arab rulers, is successfully facing by co-opting the Islamists into a democratic system. — Herald Tribune.

The writer is an ABC News correspondent who specialises in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean. The article is reprinted under same headline, from Herald Tribune.

Ethnic cleansing of Bosnian Muslims — a success of the European policy

By G.H. Jansen

The conventional wisdom is that the inability of Europe and the U.S. to prevent the Orthodox Christian Serbs and the Catholic Christian Croats from ethnically cleansing Bosnia of the Muslim Bosnians was a deplorable failure for Europe and the U.S., especially the former because it happened in Europe. The reasons for this failure were said to be "lack of leadership", "lack of vision", "failure of nerve" and so on.

All this is the exact opposite of the truth. The ethnic cleansing of the Bosnian Muslims was a success, a brilliant victory, for the European policy which achieved exactly what it was meant to do: to prevent the creation of a Muslim-controlled state in the south-eastern region of Christian Europe. Furthermore, this design has been carried out with such skill and finesse that world public opinion does not even know or guess that this cruel plot has been the mainspring of events in Bosnia, although there has been ample evidence on the ground of the plot being carried out.

The Europeans have worked through sins of commission rather than omission: by not acting instead of acting wrongly, by letting things happen, by not stopping the Serbs and Croats. It is because of this passivity that the master plotters have not been identified since it is the local forces who did the dirty work and have taken the blame.

Yet the negative evidence has been overwhelming. There has been the deliberate, repeated refusal to use force against the Serbs with a whole variety of utterly specious excuses. It was said that aerial bombing would be inaccurate and dangerous and ultimately, ineffective, which did not count when it came to bomb-

ing Muslims in Mogadishu. Once troops were put in for humanitarian reasons, they themselves then became an excuse to do nothing about using force for political reasons because, it was argued, that would put them in danger of reprisals.

The reason for the steadfast refusal to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia so that the Muslims could get arms to defend themselves is so specious that it should have given the game, the plot, away. Arming Muslims, it was claimed, would increase casualties. Why then did the allies give arms to the resistance fighters in Europe against the Nazis with the certain knowledge that their attacks would bring brutal reprisals and casualties?

One of the main reasons for western inaction was the fear of casualties and of dead men coming home in body bags. For how could the West and the U.S. explain to the bereaved families that their men had died defending Muslims, those aliens and enemies of the West?

The biggest single piece of evidence of the anti-Muslim plot was the Vance-Owen plan for Bosnia. Serbia would remain intact, Croatia would remain intact, but Muslim-majority-Bosnia would be chopped up into ten pieces.

But suspicions about what has happened are beginning to be aired. U.S. Senator Joseph Biden has asked pointedly whether European reaction to Bosnian events would have been the same, if instead of Christians killing Muslims it had been Muslims killing Christians. A Croatian leader speaking on American television, and identifying himself as a Croat, said fully and frankly that the Christian states of

Europe had not wanted a Muslim state in the Balkans. Politic obliquity took over when the Turkish Foreign Minister, Hikmet Cetin, told a NATO meeting on June 11 that if Europe did not do more in Bosnia, critics would say that its inaction was because the Bosnians were Muslims. The Iranians have made the anti-Muslim accusation boldly and openly and the Organisation of Islamic Conference has done so half-heartedly. But who cares what partisan Muslims think or say as long as they do nothing? — which has been the case.

What do the Europeans have against a European Muslim state? It must be said that that objection has an element of neatness. West Asia and North Africa, a large enough area, is Islamic and Europe and North and South America are Christian and each religion should stay in its own area. Isolated alien enclaves, either racial or religious, only cause trouble like the Christian Lebanese in Muslim West Asia and the Christians in northeast India or the Karens in Burma (the Christian Philippines fortunately are offshore islands).

Apart from that general "justification" of European anti-Muslim hostility, there are more specific reasons for it. There is the rooted, atavistic West European fear of Muslim hordes sweeping in from the east. This has been revived by the "invasion" of West European countries by millions of Muslim immigrants — Turks in Germany, Moroccans and Algerians in France, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis in Britain, and these Islamic fifth columns are being radicalised and energised by the force of militant Islam coming out of Iran and other

Muslim countries.

It is being conveniently forgotten that militant Islam is itself a reaction to Christian hostility and pressure displayed by such things as support for the intrusive Jewish entity thrust into West Asia and the defence of Salman Rushdie's vulgar and insulting attack on Islam in "The Satanic Verses."

If the British, French and Germans are reacting fearfully against reactive Muslim immigrants in those countries, the Serbs and Croats have had no reason at all to react against the Bosnian Muslims. These have been not merely quiescent but positively indifferent Muslims, to the point of not identifying themselves as Muslims. The principal motivation of the Croats and Serbs is the ancient memory of what they experienced at Muslim hands during the Ottoman empire, decades and even centuries ago.

One of the main reasons why the anti-Muslim plot has not been recognised for what it is has been because the brave and honest members of the western media have described and denounced the atrocities committed by Serbs and Croats. From which it was mistakenly assumed that the western governments were also against the Serbs and Croats, though that is the exact opposite of the truth. There is all the difference in the world between honest western individuals and aid agencies and the coldly calculating western governments, whose calculations have completely succeeded.

The writer is a Cyprus-based journalist specialised in Islamic and Middle Eastern Affairs. He contributed the article to the Jordan Times.

Israel gives Palestinian minors an early taste of jail life

By Barry Parker
Agence France Presse

GAZA CITY. Occupied Gaza Strip — Fretful mothers gather daily outside the barbed-wire fenced Israeli army headquarters on Nasser Street waiting to pay for the release of their young sons.

It is a classic scene in the occupied territories encapsulating the vicious circle of violence and repression that brutalises the lives of the youngest to the oldest.

When Israeli soldiers patrol the dangerous streets of the occupied Gaza Strip a volley of stones is never far behind, often sparking a chase for the Palestinian boys responsible.

If those who are caught are 14 or under, too young to be jailed, they are usually locked up at Nasser Street in the heart of Gaza City.

Mohammad Suhailim, 14, has been through the process twice, costing his parents 250 shekels (\$90) and 500 shekels they could ill-afford.

The last time, a week ago, he was also winged by a bullet. His left-leg is still bandaged and he limps slightly.

Suhailim mocks the army's attempts to discipline him. "It doesn't make any difference to us. What I've told you happens to nearly everyone round here," he says pointing to the shacks of Shatti refugee camp here on the edge of Gaza City.

Jihad El Shaarawi, has been

detained three times. He said he has just emerged from 21 days in detention.

"I was only 10 when they first took me to Nasser Street. They wanted 500 shekels and took my father's I.D. The second time they wanted 500 shekels but we didn't pay."

"A study of 2,800 children found that 42 per cent had been beaten by the army, 55 per cent had watched beatings, 19 per cent had been detained. Nine out of 10 had inhaled teargas, eight out of 10 suffered night-time house raids."

"This time they want 750 shekels. I don't have any money and my father has no work. I don't know what will happen and I don't give a damn."

"Each time they blindfold me or beat me and ask if I threw stones, but I have never admitted it," 14-year-old Jihad boasted.

Raji Surani, director of the Gaza Centre for Rights and Law, noted the fines rest solely on a

mutary regulation. "There is no legal procedure, no court, nothing."

He tells the story of a 12-year-old orphan detained for four days. "The army sent for his grandfather, but he couldn't walk. So the grandmother went and they took her identity card until she paid 750 shekels."

"She could never pay so I paid, but how many times can you do that?"

"The Israelis have lost their balance and direction here," Mr. Surani said, accusing them of "naivety."

"They think that if the families are over-burdened they will prevent the kids from doing anything. But parents cannot control their children in the camps anymore."

An army spokesman said boys aged 12 to 14 are taken to Nasser Street, but no figures were available on how many are held. Palestinians say much younger boys are also detained, blindfolded, refused food and beaten.

Mr. Surani said dozens are detained each month in Gaza. According to the army, the maximum fine is 500 shekels.

But not all boys go to military HQ. Some receive a short, sharp shock.

Abdul Hadi Ahmad, 6, and Rahmi Azzam, 10, were caught by soldiers last week in the rubble-strewn back-streets of Gaza's Sheikh Radwan district.

Witnesses watched in horror as soldiers hung both by their ankles from a roof-top.

"They slapped me and kept pointing a rifle at my chest and asking me who threw the stones," Rahmi said. "They told us they were soldiers who killed Palestinians and could kill us if they wanted."

The soldiers set them free after the younger boy was so frightened his bowels gave way.

The shooting dead of minors — five Gaza children under 16 died from Israeli gunfire last month — attracts headline news but psychiatrist Eyad El Sarraj, who heads the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, warned that many survivors face severe trauma.

"The children of the stone" are not made of stone. They suffer pain and fear," Mr. El Sarraj said.

A recent United Nations Children's Fund report estimated that 22,000 Gazan children have been injured since the intifada erupted in December 1987.

A Gaza community study of 2,800 children found that 42 per cent had been beaten by the army, 55 per cent had watched beatings, 19 per cent had been detained. Nine out of 10 had inhaled tear gas, eight out of 10 suffered night-time house raids.

"It is difficult to imagine the future of these children, even in peace. It is certain however that many will continue to harbour the pain, the guilt and the anger. It is also certain that some will turn against their own children and against themselves," Mr. El Sarraj said.

Sunday's Economic Pulse
By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

New thinking in economic talks

The Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan organised last week a large-scale conference on Jordanian economy — problems and prospects. Some 200 participants took part in the conference, and around 32 research papers were presented covering various aspects and sectors of the Jordanian economy.

The conference was a turning point in Jordanian economic thinking. For the first time, economists were referring to the Arab-Israeli peace settlement as a fact of life and discussing its possible negative and positive economic consequences. The possible concept of peace settlement was treated objectively. No one tried to overrule the idea or, conversely, to raise objections against it or to warn that a disaster is in the making. One can say that most speakers were on the optimistic side.

The economic adjustment programme was also discussed in one paper and referred to in several papers and during discussions without the old vehement objections. As a matter of fact, an observer can divide participants into two groups. The first thinks that the programme is vital to the Jordanian economy and the second is taking it for granted without objections, and learning to live with it, which is a healthy sign.

Another first at this conference was the successful interaction among academicians of the university and practitioners of the private sector. Both categories of intellectuals were talking the same language. The conspicuous absentees were the politicians, especially ministers, Parliament deputies and parties' leaders who missed this valuable opportunity of learning. Unfortunately, those activists will remain behind events instead of keeping abreast and becoming able to take responsible positions towards current and future issues.

For the first time, new issues were discussed, such as whether we have or not an economic philosophy, what are its salient points, if they existed and whether it is better for us to adopt a specific industrial policy or take a hands-off type of policy towards industry.

Among the main themes discussed were the experiment of the new tigers (industrialised countries) in the Far East, especially Singapore, and whether Jordan can make use of it; whether industry should concentrate on producing for export or domestic markets.

Having arranged successfully this excellent conference, covering the overall economic scene, perhaps the Centre For Strategic Studies may like to arrange a chain of workshops to tackle specific issues, such as the new economic development plan, the economic adjustment programme, general sales tax, foreign indebtedness, poverty, unemployment etc. Such specific seminars or workshops focusing on certain issues may result in formulating practical answers and trends that may be helpful to the Jordanian decisionmakers. At least those decisionmakers may become able to recognise their options and decide on one or another alternative course of action.

The conference was not only an achievement for the centre, and its director, Dr. Mustafa Hamareh, it was also an achievement to the credit of the university which was always rightly accused of shying away from dealing with vital issues facing the country and the society. Success must lead to more success, and the visible achievement of the Centre for Strategic Studies will definitely encourage the private sector to provide the funds badly needed to finance research activities that the university's budget does not allow.

Unlike other conferences, the research papers were not distributed among participants or journalists, therefore we expect the centre to publish the volume covering the proceedings of the conference as early as possible. Some papers may need editing to remove irrelevant materials and lengthy introductions or unnecessary historical coverage.

LETTERS

Points clarified

To the Editor:

On June 12, 1993, the Jordan Times opinion page featured an article entitled "Opposition reports cause little stir in Iran" which contained inaccurate information and analysis on the situation in Iran and the Iranian people's resistance. It is appropriate that the following points be clarified for your readers:

1. The article's title is itself misleading. The press conferences held by Rafsanjani's defence, intelligence and interior ministers the day after the reports appeared in the press show that the resistance operations "cause a lot of stir in Iran". Significantly, the regime's intelligence minister was obliged in his recent conference to acknowledge the Mujahedeen's operations in Iran over the past year, among them the bomb blast at Khomeini's tomb which, in contrast to the author's contention, is not in the Iran-Iraq border region but a few kilometres from Tehran.

2. The article portrays the regime's extreme reactions to these operations, such as the bombardment of a National Liberation Army base 90 kilometres inside Iraqi territory, as a natural reaction to be expected from any government, rather than fear of the "Mujahedeen threat". The retaliatory airstrike, which the author himself describes as "violent", was carried out in an extremely sensitive region in violation of the sovereignty of a neighbouring state and U.N. Security Council resolutions. Moreover, subsequent pronouncements by the mullahs' regime were not limited to declarations about not tolerating border penetrations, and clearly revealed the regime's fear of the real threat posed by the Mujahedeen.

3. In relating the assassination of a Mujahedeen member in Pakistan, the article's author is very conscientious about citing the denial of a regime described by most countries as the worst state sponsor of terrorism (as noted by the Jordan Times in its report on remarks by the U.S. Secretary of State in meetings with the defence minister of a regime which always has a hard time introducing its diplomats to other countries because of their terrorist backgrounds. In more than one country, this regime's local authorities for their role in assassinations of oppositionists.

4. The author has intentionally reduced his figures on the number of the NLA's forces. His depiction contradicts the previous report on the National Liberation Army (NLA) by his employer, Reuters News Agency, prepared by a correspondent who had seen the army first-hand.

5. At various points in the article, the author cites views by "diplomats" on the Mujahedeen's recent operations and their impact on the ruling regime. The quotations are reminiscent of those attributed to "diplomats" in 1979 regarding the stability of the Shah's regime and absence of "any threat" to it.

6. The author says the Mujahedeen's presence in Iraq has reduced their popularity among the Iranian people, for which claim he cites anonymous "Iranian analysts".

Meanwhile, the number of NLA combatants in Iraq continues to grow by the day, and even the regime's own press reflects the popular support for resistance. The Iranian people are not fooled by the warmongering used by Khomeini to prolong his unpatriotic war for eight years. They know that their primary enemy is the ruling regime of the mullahs.

Office of the People's Mujahedeen of Iran,
Paris.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances, letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Iraqi artist depicts Jordanian landscape

By Najwa Kefaya
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 28 oil painting, Iraqi artist Mohammad Fradi, presently exhibited at Alia Art Gallery are characterised by their expressiveness, genuinity, and movement.

In spite of the fact that the paintings are all reproductions of landscape and natural scenery, the good lighting effects, and therefore the presence of shadowy images, manage to trigger the viewer's sight. Another factor that should be given credit in creating this effect are the striking oil colours brushed vigorously on canvas in a solid composition.

ART REVIEW

to give a strong impression. Small details, such as clothes hanging on a line on the roof of an Amman house, the reflection of the movement of the water of a running stream, the glare of sunshine behind a black cloud, all add up movement and stir life in a painting.

What is also impressive about this exhibition is that each painting manages to pull you into it separately and in a different way than the other. In each painting there is a focal point, or a point of departure, which leads the viewer to the rest of the scene. This focal attraction could be either a splash of light, a concentration of colours or a form.

The artist, who has arrived in

Jordan ten months ago, and has been researching the Jordanian landscape throughout its different seasons, has finally come to understand it and come to terms with it.

One of his paintings hurts the eye with its aggressive green. This, explains the artist, was one of his first "spring" paintings whereby his reproduction of the green fields was a bit exaggerated. However, he is honest in expressing to the viewer his gradual development in coming into terms with the Jordanian nature.

Amman, as portrayed by the artist, whether from a high angle or from below, looks real and fresh. "I try to interact with the environment without anchoring my vision within it," he says. He tries to create new forms out of nature by means of new compositions.

There are five paintings which are different than the others in his collection. They are more or less abstract paintings on the same topic: nature. They are, as the artist puts it, a natural development of his artistic style. "Abstraction happens spontaneously in my artistic life at present. I feel this is going to be my next stage. I unconsciously neglect to put

some details in a painting, or minimal lines without which a painting may very well be described as abstract," he says adding: "I offer pairs of parallel but interconnected works, one showing my vision of reality and the other showing what happens spontaneously when we take the next step."

The exhibition will go on till June 27.



Two of Mohammad Fradi's works on display at Alia Art Gallery



Yeltsin turns focus on polls, but old problems remain

By Ralph Boulton
Reuter

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin appears to have buried prospects of a swift constitutional deal and is turning public focus on autumn polls to seal his power.

But in switching priorities he faces the same problem that dogged him throughout a year-long power struggle to overcome hard-liners' opposition to his vision of a free-market Russia.

How can he achieve his aim against the resistance of conservative deputies? Moreover, what guarantees does he have that a new parliament would prove easier to handle?

"An election campaign is already under way in Russia," Gennady Burbulis, a close Yeltsin ally, told reporters on the fringes of the president's Kremlin Constitutional Assembly, called to draft a replacement for the Soviet-era charter.

Mr. Yeltsin summoned the assembly 10 days ago, giving it until June 16 to agree and endorse a new constitution based on his proposals for a presidency invested with sweeping powers.

The task was scarcely realistic from the start.

Mr. Yeltsin says he is happy with the work of its five sections, grouping regional leaders, social groups and parliamentary and government officials. But section leaders say there is little chance of an agreed final draft for approval this month.

First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko says differences persist on the two key issues: presidential powers, especially an unlimited licence to dissolve parliament, and power-sharing between Moscow and the regions.

Alexander Yakovlev, a member of the section grouping federal officials, told reporters Monday the assembly would end with a joint declaration on June 16 or 17. But he said it would reconvene a month later and had every hope of success.

Mr. Yeltsin aims to preserve the assembly at least as a form of national "council" parallel to the congress he hopes to break.

Mr. Burbulis hinted it could assume state powers in the event of a head-on confrontation with the present parliament.

Meanwhile, the camp favouring postponement of a new constitution is widening. It now embraces politicians ranging from liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky to conservative parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov.

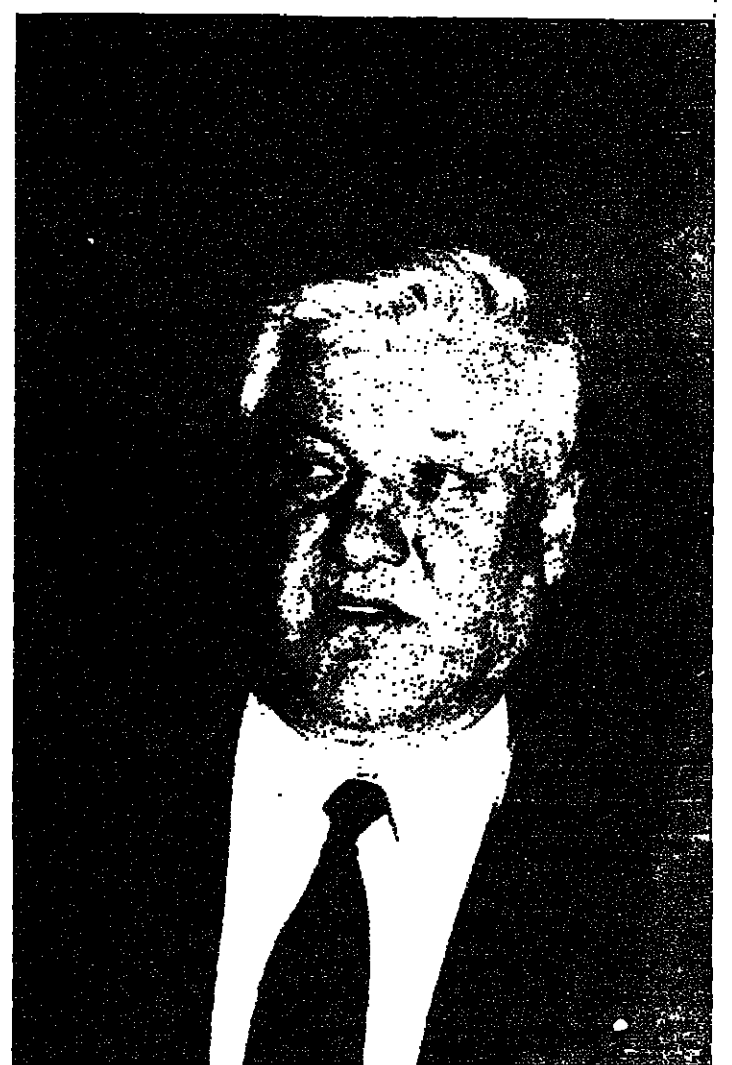
For Mr. Yeltsin too, a new constitution has never been essential, but only a means to an end. That end was to break the challenge to his power and to his market reforms by the conservative Congress of People's Deputies, the top legislature.

At the weekend, Mr. Yeltsin predicted autumn polls.

This is perhaps the only area where Mr. Yeltsin and his rival, Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, agree.

Mr. Burbulis, a man loathed by hard-liners, said he would tour the country this month sounding out support for a pro-Yeltsin electoral bloc as the basis of a new political party.

Former Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, world chess champion Garry Kasparov and cellist Mstislav Rostropovich are among those already backing a joint



Boris Yeltsin

electoral front. Communist and nationalist groupings are also preparing a campaign.

Mr. Burbulis saw any future campaign in clear terms, dividing the country into two basic parties — the "democrat-reformers" who back Mr. Yeltsin and "odious revanchists" who resist him.

The situation, as he well knows, is more diffuse and the dangers facing Mr. Yeltsin in an election far greater.

Mr. Yeltsin used his control over television as an effective lever of influence during April's national confidence vote and would certainly not surrender that prize for an election.

But Russians would be faced with a less obvious choice at elections. Mr. Yeltsin supporters formed an effective coalition for the 1991 presidential poll, but parliamentary elections could present them with a confusing array of groupings.

New deputies could prove more accommodating than a congress tempered in the fires of untempered presidential crusades. But, if elected for the first time on the basis of party lists and proportional representation, it could also prove a more disciplined body capable of defying Mr. Yeltsin.

That would be the risk the president took.

Even if the Kremlin assembly agrees on a constitution, Mr. Yeltsin must find a way of giving it legal force. Regional leaders have already said the congress should be involved in passing it — something that would reduce chances of presidential success.

Mr. Yeltsin's best chances might lie in pushing through a law on elections, leaving the constitution to a future parliament.

But even here, deputies might balk at signing their own political death warrants by calling elections.

Grasshoppers and locusts — crisis or chronic problem?

Grasshoppers and Locusts: plague of the Sahel
Published by Panos Institute, London, 1993
Price: £7.95

As another severe drought in the Sahel begins to ease, a different tragedy threatens the region — the next locust plague. But all the signs are that this age-old problem will be greeted yet again with expensive, short-lived emergency measures, when long-term solutions are desperately needed, says a new Panos book: *Grasshoppers and Locusts: Plague of the Sahel*.

Millions of dollars have been spent fighting locusts over the past 20 years — from using satellite early warning systems and crop-spraying aircraft to building up farmers' networks.

Yet from 1986 to 1988, the worst locust plague in 30 years struck, which at its height affected over 40 countries. In Senegal alone, locust swarms attacked two million hectares, and destroyed 10 per cent of the nation's harvest. "Our village lost two-thirds of its production," said a villager in Niger. "It seemed as if the more we used the pesticides, the more the locusts resisted

them." Donors spent \$252.5 million during that time, but left little behind in the way of long-term improvements. When the plague died down, so did the interest of the donors and media. The book argues that more consistent funding and support should go towards improved monitoring and prevention and targeted crop protection.

The focus on intermittent plague has also obscured the constant but less dramatic cost of grasshoppers which have caused more damage than locusts over the past five years.

Often chronically underfunded, the wide range of organisations involved in Sahelian pest control have different concerns and priorities. Past lack of support for research, data collection and training have been major obstacles to crop protection. Improved coordination and security of funding are needed.

No single control method will work, argues the book.

Developing alternative methods, such as bio-pesticides, and expanding the role of village brigades and NGOs, offer new hope in the battle against locusts and grasshoppers — and should reduce dependence on environmentally risky spraying campaigns.

BOOK REVIEW

The cycle of drought, plague and heavy pesticide use will not be broken until pest management is addressed as a wider development issue, and the emphasis shifts from short-term interventions to a more sustainable approach.

As Professor Odhiambo, director of the Nairobi-based International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology recently warned, the opportunity must not be lost to find: "technologically efficient, environmentally sustainable and durable long-range methods to resolve these age-old migratory pest issues, so closely associated with vulnerable communities and fragile ecosystems."



By Derek Brown Halifax

When Dan Zaslavsky talks hot air, he talks stupendous quantities of it, enough, indeed, for a cheap energy revolution for the world.

Professor Zaslavsky, dean of agricultural engineering at the Haifa Technion — the Israeli Institute of Technology — heads a project which is at once audacious and simple: to produce power from salt water and the natural heat of the desert.

The tool for converting these modest raw materials into energy would be an enormous tapering chimney, up to 8,000 ft high and 1,000 ft across at the base. Salt water would be pumped to the top and released inside as artificial rain. As it fell, the rain would meet a mass of hot air rising from openings at the bottom.

Israeli finds energy solution

Cold water on hot air

Rapidly cooled, the air would drop, turning electricity generating turbines. Meanwhile the falling rain would be desalinated by evaporation and filtration, giving a bonus of fresh water.

Prof. Zaslavsky's vision is a series of towers along a canal linking the Dead Sea to the Red Sea, giving a ready catchment of salt water from both ends, and some of the hottest air on earth.

This is more than grandiose theory. The Technion team has tested it with a model. So brimming with potential is the scheme that it was an official secret until last autumn, when the Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres,

inadvertently spoke of it in public.

But the immense start-up cost is likely to make potential investors wary. The "Dead Red" canal, which has been frequently touted as a means of replenishing the rapidly shrinking Dead Sea and potentially for irrigating the deserts on either side, has an estimated price tag of \$2,000 million. On its own, Prof. Zaslavsky argues, it could not produce the energy needed for desalination.

On the cost of building the rain towers, Prof. Zaslavsky is inclined to irritation. "It is like asking me the cost of a pair of pants for an orphan," he replies crisply. "I have to know the age and size of the orphan and then maybe I could say."

But on the technology he has no doubts. The cost of producing electricity could be as low as two or three U.S. cents a kilowatt/hour.

Eventually, he says, the towers

could be built in the world's northern and southern desert belts and would have the potential to supply 15-fold the energy demands of 5 billion people consuming at the present level of Germany.

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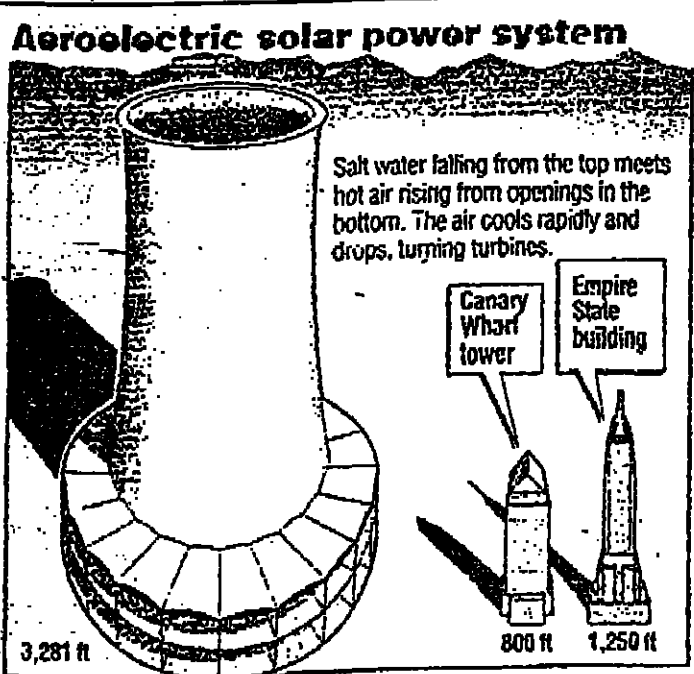
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Norway leads in family planning aid to poor nations

WASHINGTON (R) — Norway's contribution to family planning assistance in developing countries stands out as a generous exception among developed countries in an otherwise disappointing trend, according to a report issued Saturday.

The Scandinavian nation topped 20 leading Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries for per capita donations to developing countries' population control efforts, the report by Population Action International said.

With a contribution of more than \$50 million in 1991, Norway's contribution to family planning amounted to \$12 for every Norwegian man, woman and child, according to the non-profit, Washington-based research and advocacy group.

It said Norway was the only country to meet a donation target of allocating four per cent of their overall aid to developing countries toward family planning programmes. The target was set at a 1989 forum on population in Amsterdam.

Other leading contributors in 1991 were the United States, with \$352 million, Germany with \$76 million and Japan with \$63 million, the group said. But per capita, the donations were only \$1.38 for the United States, 94 cents for Germany and 52 cents for Japan, it said.

The report, "Global Population Assistance: A Report Card on the Major Donor Countries," found overall trends in aid to developing countries' family planning and other population activities to be "disappointing."

Adjusted for inflation, aid from donor countries rose by less than one per cent in the 1970s and 1980s.

"The demand for family planning in developing countries poses a challenge to the world community that is not being met," said Shanti Conly, the group's senior policy analyst and coauthor of the study.

"If donors are serious about extending the right to family planning to everyone who wants it by the end of this decade, they — along with the developing countries themselves — will have to provide funds, about \$11 billion a year, in constant 1990 dollars by the year 2000," Ms. Conly said.

Blaming the disappointing results on a lack of political commitment, inadequate domestic expertise and the weakness of various organisations, the report said only half the world's couples have access to family planning services.

It called on the 20 developed countries to increase their donations to family planning services in developing countries by five-fold over 1991 levels.

Germany's Kohl brushes aside unions, pushes for overhaul of labour laws

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his centre-right coalition Friday brushed aside protests by the country's unions and stepped up pressure for an overhaul of labour laws to ensure Germany's industrial survival.

Kohl told Germans they should stop whingeing and work harder to help the country regain its international competitiveness but the powerful I.G. Metall Union, the country's largest, flatly rejected proposals to increase weekly work hours.

As around 3,000 textile workers rallied in Bonn in protest at slashed jobs of up to 10 per cent last year in the west, I.G. Metall's anger was echoed by the main public-sector union OETV, which said Bonn had no right to demand longer hours.

Mr. Kohl remained unmoved. "I simply can't understand this discussion about whether we

should work one hour more or less," he told an interim Christian Democrat (CDU) party congress. "We are talking about securing the future."

But I.G. Metall said it had no intention of giving up a 35-hour week deal starting in 1995. "We will hold fast to the step-by-step plan leading to a 35-hour work week," a spokeswoman told Reuters.

"Shortened working hours have created one million new jobs in the metal industry," she said. "Pressure will grow to increase hours but I.G. Metall will stand firm."

The proposal for longer hours comes on top of government plans to cut social welfare such as unemployment benefits.

OETV Chairwoman Monika Wulf-Mathies said in Stuttgart "All unions were horrified at how

politicians were prepared to question labour agreements."

"The government is looking for confrontation in defiance of the law," she said, after a meeting of the OETV members' expert panel on wages in east and west Germany.

The government warned that Germany's industrial survival was at stake.

"It must be possible to also work on Sundays and holidays when this is necessary to create and secure jobs," Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt told parliament.

In addition to allowing work on Sundays — unheard of in Germany — the reform should enable companies to have employees work up to 10 hours a day, he said.

Germany has the world's shortest working hours and most paid

holidays. The country's four million metalworkers have been working a 36-hour week since April and this is set to fall again to 35 hours in October 1995.

Except for some industries like steel, where blast furnaces must be kept lit around the clock, German factories may only operate two shifts daily and may not work Sundays or holidays.

In a move which shocked some unions, the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) are backing proposals for longer hours.

Heide Simonis, SPD premier of the Schleswig-Holstein state, said Wednesday that all state employees, who now work 38.5 hours a week, will have to add an hour in order to help the state cut costs. Conservative Bavaria and other regional states have also indicated that they might follow suit.

Mitterrand urges EC defence against cheap imports

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand said Friday that the European Community (EC) must adopt stiffer trade barriers to protect its markets from goods produced in low-wage countries lacking labour rights.

"I would like to see the European Community give itself common rules to protect its industries from foreign goods reduced in social conditions that cause such an imbalance in the costs of production that we cannot long put up with the competition," Mr. Mitterrand said.

The socialist president, speaking to Danish television, acknowledged that he was advocating a form of protectionism.

"But Europe was found at the time of the Treaty of Rome on the notion of preference among Community members," he said, referring to the 1957 treaty founding the EC.

Mr. Mitterrand's remarks, made three days before next week's EC summit meeting, were echoed in an interview with France's new conservative European affairs minister, Alain Lamassoure, in the daily Le Monde.

"Countries which force children to work, which resort to massive counterfeiting, cannot be said to respect the same ground rules as we do and cannot benefit from normal trade concessions," Mr. Lamassoure said. "We need a certain form of protectionism against these kinds of acts."

The remarks by Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Lamassoure highlighted concern in France that a GATT world trade deal could tear down EC trade barriers, leaving the Community market vulnerable to a flood of products from developing countries where wages and welfare benefits are low.

Earlier this week Philippe de Villiers of the centre-right Union for French Democracy called on Prime Minister Edouard Balladur to apply more stringent customs duties to protect EC industries like textiles and cars from low-wage Asian nations.

A senior French official said France had broached the idea of such compensatory duties with the European Commission and its Group of Seven partners. Duties raised under the plan would be ploughed back into the Asian countries to help strengthen their workers' social safety net.

Industry Minister Gerard Longuet told the senate (upper house) Thursday that the government would ask EC heads of state and governments meeting in Copenhagen Monday and Tuesday to plug holes in the EC's system of textile quotas.

China, Hong Kong sign pact on regulating stocks

PEKING (R) — China and Hong Kong signed a breakthrough agreement Saturday, allowing companies which were the backbone of Peking's communist economy to list their shares on the capitalist colony's stock exchange.

The memorandum of regulatory cooperation seeks to reassure international investors that the Chinese shares will be subject to the same scrutiny and the same rules as any other listing in Hong Kong.

"The very purpose of this exercise is to establish a framework to provide a sufficient level of protection," Robert Nott, chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, told a news conference.

The parties to the agreement "demonstrate to international investors... (that) they publicly acknowledge their responsibility to enhance protection for investors," he said.

Mr. Nott and Charles Lee, chairman of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, signed the agreement for the Hong Kong side.

China's signatories were Liu Honggu, chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, and the chairman of the country's two stock exchanges in Shanghai and Shenzhen.

The agreement says the basic principles of trading are that it should be orderly, efficient and transparent.

It paves the way for nine specially selected state-owned firms to list in Hong Kong, as China speeds up its drive towards a market economy.

The first two are expected to be industrial giant Shanghai Petrochemical and the premier beer-maker, Tsingtao Brewery.

Analysts expect their listing within weeks but officials declined to give dates. Mr. Lee said that at least three or four companies would be ready this year, but possibly not all nine.

Mr. Liu quoted Vice-Premier Zhu Rongji as telling the signatories: "The listing of the nine enterprises in Hong Kong is a very meaningful act. We must do it well."

China's first stock market since 1949 opened in Shanghai only in December 1990. The country has never had an open and transparent system of doing business and still has not published a complete set of laws governing stock trading.

Anthony Neoh, a legal expert who is a member of the Hong Kong stock exchange's council, said Saturday's agreement — combined with regulations already announced by China — would protect investors in the shares listed in Hong Kong.

"I would consider that in China now there is in fact an infrastructure for regulating securities... there is a company law infrastructure we can build on," he said.

Under the agreement, both sides promise to ensure compliance with each other's rules and to develop systems for consultation and training.

The pact specifically demands "the discovery of, and taking action against, insider trading, market manipulation and other fraudulent practices."

GATT seeks to open government contracts to international bidding

GENEVA (R) — Major trading nations will push to reach an accord by the year-end which would open up government procurement contracts worth \$1,000 billion to international competitive bidding, a GATT spokesman said.

Japan, the United States and European Community are among 23 countries hoping to extend an existing GATT pact to cover procurement of services, utilities, and contracts awarded by local and state governments, the spokesman told a news briefing.

"They intend to intensify negotiations and reach agreement on a text and coverage by Dec. 15," David Woods, spokesman of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), said.

An accord would permit international bidding in such lucrative public sectors as electricity, railways and telecommunications — now largely awarded to domestic firms.

"It is estimated that up to \$1,000 billion of government procurement could be opened up to international competitive bidding through the extension of the agreement," Mr. Woods said.

This was roughly equal to the estimated value of world trade in services, according to the 111-member state body.

Negotiators intend to examine a bilateral telecommunications accord which Germany made with the United States as a possible model for a multilateral accord, the GATT spokesman said.

"It would be a logical idea to multilateralise the accord," Mr. Woods said.

UAE bans six textile plants from export to United States

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) banned six textile factories from exporting garments to the United States after they imported clothing from Asian countries and switched the labels.

Mohammad Al Sharhan, head of certificates of origin at the UAE Ministry of Commerce, said Saturday the factories violated a deal between the UAE and the United States which limits U.S. clothing imports from the Gulf Arab state.

"We will not grant them export visas," he told Reuters.

The deal allows UAE garment factories to export 1.6 million units, each containing 12 clothing items, to the United States under a three-year agreement due to expire at the end of 1993.

Mr. Sharhan said the six companies were banned as of this month for six months to one year

from exporting to the United States. He did not know many types of garments were affected.

The United States is a main market for UAE-made shirts, trousers, sportswear, sportswear and raincoats. UAE clothing exports worldwide totalled about \$165 million last year.

The Emirates News Agency in February said the chamber of commerce and industry called for more protection for the garment industry to prevent imitations and increase exports.

Industry sources have urged more regulation of the garment industry. They said some UAE garment factories stitch "Made in the UAE" labels on clothes from Pakistan, India or other Asian countries which have exhausted their own U.S. quota limits.

"It's cheaper, and also India gets around its own high quota

limits by exporting to the U.S. via the UAE," one source said.

A UAE free zone port official said they were aware of the problem of label-switching and try to control it by comparing bills of lading on garments entering UAE ports with those exported by garment manufacturers.

Mr. Sharhan said the ban would not prevent the companies from exporting to other destinations such as Canada and Europe. UAE commerce and ministry officials are due to meet in Dubai next week to review problems facing the sector, which accounts for 10 per cent of the UAE's non-oil manufacturing units.

The emirates industrial bank said in March the UAE has 115 textile and garment factories. Most are based in Sharjah and employ Indian and Sri Lankan workers.

Arab fund increases lending, reports higher net revenue

AMMAN (R) — The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the leading soft loan institution in the Arab World, lent more money last year as assets and revenue rose, its annual report said.

In a copy of the 1992 report obtained by Reuters, the Kuwaiti-based fund said it agreed to lend 175.7 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$585.6 million) towards 11 development projects in eight Arab states during the year.

The figure was a slight increase from 171.4 million dinars (\$571.3 million) in 1991.

"The Gulf crisis did not affect our lending activities and we succeeded not only in maintaining the same level of pre-crisis lending but increasing it," said a senior official.

He said assets were also unaffected after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 because most of the investments were abroad.

The Kuwaiti and Saudi-dominated fund last year released previously frozen loans to Jordan, Sudan and Yemen, which sympathised with Iraq after the invasion, the official said.

In its last governing council meeting in Damascus in April 1992, the fund decided to halt payments to Iraq, Sudan, and Somalia because they failed to pay arrears.

The fund's total accumulative soft loans to Arab countries since it began lending in 1974 reached 1.67 billion dinars (\$5.56 billion) at the end of 1992.

The fund, made up of 22 Arab states and the Palestine Libera-

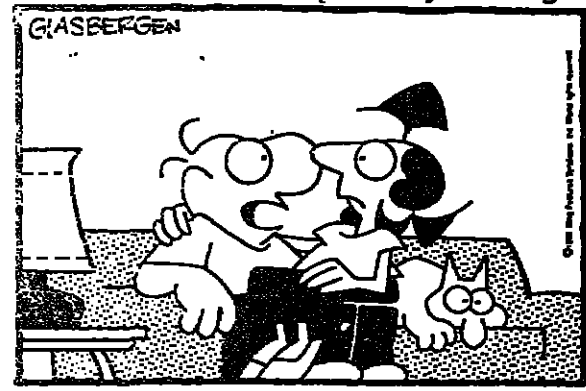
tion Organisation, said its assets rose to 1.36 billion dinars (\$4.53 billion) at the end of December 1992 from 1.26 billion dinars (\$4.20 billion) in 1991.

Net revenue rose to 149.4 million dinars (\$498.0 million) at the end of 1992 from 111.5 million dinars (\$371.5 million) in 1991. The revenue was based on income from 846 million dinars (\$2.82 billion) in investments plus loan repayments.

Net income, after expenses, was 104.7 million dinars (\$349.0 million) in 1992 against 64.9 million dinars (\$216.3 million) in 1991. It did not give elaborate on the reason for the increase in revenue and income.

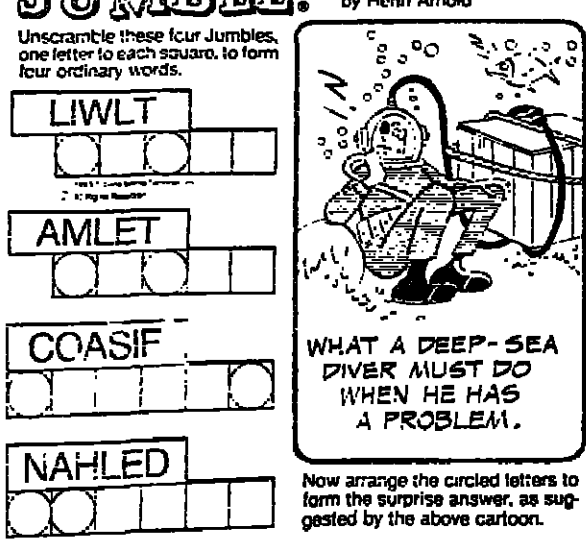
The fund lends at four to five per cent interest over 20 years.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Of course I'm glad we met! I'd feel silly being your husband if we'd never met!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold



Print answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: VOUCH GLADE TARGET AROUSE

Answer: What a lumbagk went downstream on a "TRAVELOG"

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JUNE 20, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This Father's Day when the Moon in Cancer (Moonchild) Squares Jupiter, you can expect to be much different than some recent celebrations. Expect the unexpected but don't allow yourself to be thrown by the outcome.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can now make a well organized plan of action whereby you have a greater amount of expertise for putting your mundane aims into active expression.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You will find that by being open-minded to changes in business matters that you will be able to attain a far greater success in the future.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can see how better organising your life can bring you far more efficiency in business as well as astuteness in dealing with a business person.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is the day for you to bring into the open your worldly ambitions and the means by which you feel they can be most effectively realised.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Now you have a good day to schedule your coming week's activities in such a common sense manner that whatever duties you have should flow smoothly.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) The practical aspects of the various entertainment and recrea-

tion outlets that you enjoy the most can be considered and handled wisely today.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't ask family members for assistance but get at whatever you want to improve at your residence and do it in a conscientious and consistent manner.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A good time to get out those communications that take time and extra thought. Discuss with a successful companion how you can benefit in your life.

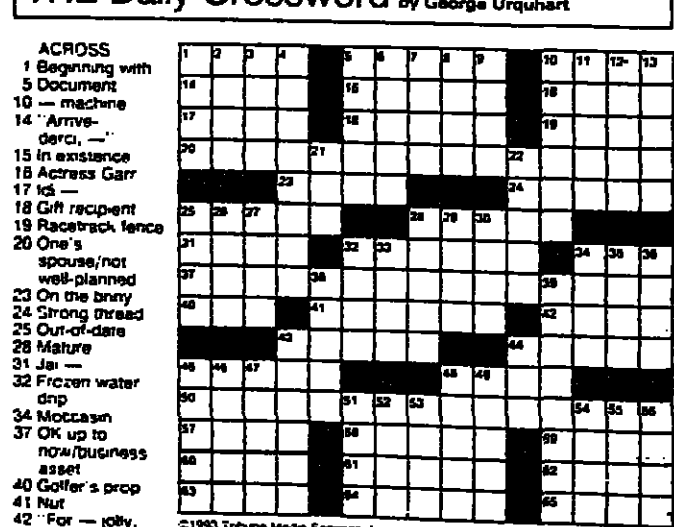
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Now you have a day when you can use spare time to take a good look at your property and possessions and find ways to make them more valuable.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You like to get every aspect of any condition in a most efficient and well rounded efficiency and this is a day to do so with your personal goals.

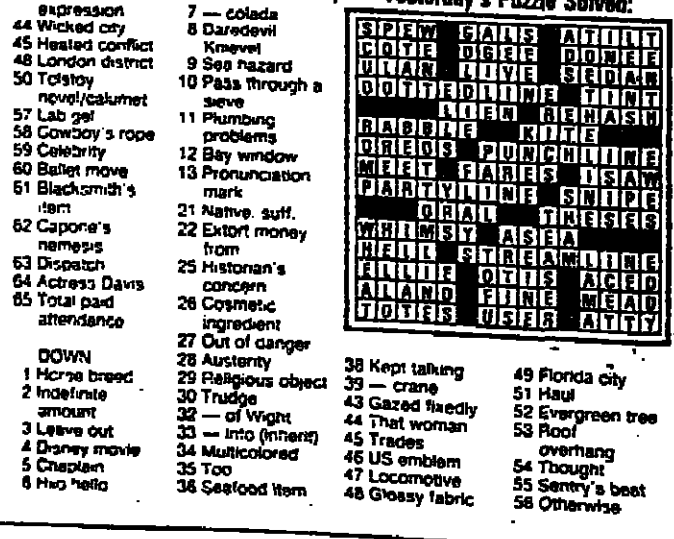
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Forget that wishful thinking and those social pleasures today, and get into how you are going to really live the helpfulness you want to give to humanity.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Friends and acquaintances who have been good to you can be done something for now, to show your appreciation with beneficial results following.

THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart



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Japan's LDP calls July 18 elections; power seen ebbing

TOKYO (R) — Shell-shocked leaders of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Saturday called a general election for July 18 and analysts predicted that their 38-year monopoly on power was coming to an end.

The move followed Friday's shock defeat for the government in a no-confidence vote and the LDP's subsequent dissolution of the Lower House.

Voters look certain to strip the LDP of its majority, ushering in a period of political turbulence and government instability.

One of the few people in Japan to express public optimism was the battered prime minister himself, Kiichi Miyazawa.

Asked by reporters if he was concerned about the LDP losing its Lower House majority for the first time, Mr. Miyazawa replied: "We're not going to lose."

Yet it will be a gravely wounded Miyazawa who hosts the Group of Seven summit of top industrial nations in Tokyo on July 7-9 against a backdrop of furious campaigning.

Japan's partners watched with dismay this week as his government fell apart, leaving officials incapable of taking decisions on pressing issues from world trade to aid for Russia.

International concern was re-

flected in Friday's sharp fall of the yen against the dollar after weeks of appreciation.

The party which has monopolised power since 1955 faces exemplary punishment at the hands of an electorate disgusted by revelations of the cynical, institutionalised public corruption that the LDP has come to represent.

Yet it could not delay the day of reckoning for fear of worse to come. On July 22 comes the opening of the trial of former LDP kingpin Shin Kanemaru on charges of massive tax evasion on sums he is alleged to have creamed off from illegal political donations.

It was Mr. Miyazawa's failure to honour a pledge to enact anti-corruption measures, after his mentor was caught allegedly with his hand in the till, that triggered the dramatic no-confidence vote in parliament.

About one quarter of the LDP's 274 Lower House members either abstained or voted with the opposition after Socialist Party chief Sadao Yamahana angrily accused Mr. Miyazawa of breaking public trust.

"He has betrayed the people by promising political reform and then refusing to allow parliament to debate the issue."

"The prime minister is a liar," he thundered.

When the motion was put to the vote, opposition members scented blood cheered boisterously as, one after another, LDP rebels appeared at the urn holding white ballot slips—the colour signifying support for the motion.

Euphoria broke out as Lower House Speaker Yoshio Sakuruchi announced passage of the motion by 255 votes to 220 in a chamber where the LDP had thought it had a safe majority. Commentators hailed the end of a political era.

The LDP rebellion was led by Mr. Miyazawa's former Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, whose pro-reform faction has 35 Lower House members. Other party lawmakers defected too. In the immediate aftermath, 11 members from other factions—mostly first-term legislators—announced they were leaving the LDP.

Kyodo News Agency said Saturday that Mr. Hata now looked set to formalise his break with the LDP next week and fight the July election as leader of a new group, possibly fielding as many as 100 candidates.

Former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who until fall-

ing ill last year was seen as Mr. Miyazawa's likely successor, slammed the prime minister Saturday for mishandling the crisis.

"I can't forgive Prime Minister Miyazawa for many of the things he has said and done," a visibly ailing Watanabe told an emergency meeting of his LDP faction.

"He's a smooth talker but then doesn't take any responsibility."

He also criticised Mr. Miyazawa for risking a vote of no-confidence just before the Tokyo summit.

Mr. Watanabe appealed to pro-reformers in his faction—seven of whom voted with the opposition Friday—not to desert the ruling party in its darkest hour.

"There's the danger that we'll end up like Italy, with many small parties creating political confusion," he said.

Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, one of the LDP elders who made Mr. Miyazawa renege on his anti-corruption pledge, scornfully dismissed the idea that the Japanese wanted change.

"What the people want most is not electoral reform but a stable yen-dollar rate and a healthy economy," he said.



Slum children on a makeshift raft head for solid land from their low-lying home which has been stranded by floods in Bangladesh (AFP photo)

150 killed or missing in Bangladesh floods

DHAKA (R) — Floods and storms ravaging Bangladesh have killed more than 100 people and nearly 50 others are missing, also believed dead, officials said Saturday.

The flooding, caused by rain and swollen rivers washing down from the Himalayas, has affected nearly three million people across the impoverished country, much of which has suffered as a result of heavy rain since Thursday.

Thousands have been made homeless, and in the capital Dhaka many streets were knee-deep in water.

Officials said 40 fishermen were missing after three trawlers sank in the Bay of Bengal during a storm Friday.

"The sea is still rough and we fear the missing men are all dead," one official in Chittagong said.

Seven people died in the city of three million and thousands abandoned their homes as 265 millimetres of rain fell in 24 hours until Saturday morning.

Four of the people died in a landslide, one was electrocuted and two were swept away by water gushing from the hills.

"At least one-third of the residents have been affected, many lost their homes and belongings," one city official told reporters.

Local officials earlier put the death toll from floods in the northeast at more than 100, including 25 who drowned when a storm sank their river ferry Friday, officials said.

Meteorologists said Saturday the floods, which had started to recede several days ago, worsened after the fresh spell of rain.

Winds blowing at 70 kph (43 mph) flattened hundreds of bamboo-and-straw huts, making thousands of people homeless, relief workers said.

They said relief efforts are hampered by poor communications.

"We are trying our best but efforts have not always been successful," said an official in Sylhet, one of the worst-affected districts.

He said many people were perched on roofs of their submerged homes. Thousands have been evacuated or have moved to safer places.

Chittagong officials said road links between the port and Chittagong Hill Tracts remained cut off after flash floods washed away four small bridges. Landslides blocked the partly covered highway to Cox's Bazar coastal town.

Serbs obstruct aid access to Gorazde — U.N.

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. officials Saturday accused Serb forces besieging the east Bosnian Muslim enclave of Gorazde of obstructing access for relief aid to 70,000 people on the brink of starvation.

Muslim-controlled Bosnian state radio reported renewed Serb assaults on villages ringing Gorazde that defied its defence lines but fighting eased elsewhere in Bosnia after Friday's collapse of yet another ceasefire accord.

In Croatia, Serbs in the rebel enclave of Krajina began voting in a two-day plebiscite on merging with the self-styled Serb Republic in Bosnia in pursuit of an eventual "greater Serbia."

The U.N. Security Council gave the green light Friday for despatching 7,600 more peacekeeping troops to Bosnia to protect Muslims in designated "safe havens" like Gorazde but their deployment remains weeks away.

With international mediation

now pointing towards an ethnic partition of Bosnia, Serbs, Muslims and Croats were likely to focus on seizing as much land as they could.

Tony Land, operations director for the U.N. High Commission for Refugees in Sarajevo, said it agency had a 10-truck emergency relief convoy ready to head for Gorazde.

But the Serbs were effectively denying access by insisting the convoy use an untrodden, dangerous route via the settlement of Ustrupaca, six kilometres south, where Muslim-Serb clashes were reported Friday, he said.

"Effectively, we are being given an impossible route," Mr. Land told a news conference in the Bosnian capital, also besieged by Serbs. Sarajevo is another of the six targeted U.N. safe havens.

Mr. Land said eight U.N. military monitors (UNMOS) who finally entered Gorazde Wednesday had pronounced the U.N.

paca corridor "out of the question."

The Bosnian Serb rebel commander had declined to explain why they were insisting on the new route from the east instead of the normal one into Gorazde from the north, he said.

UNMOS have described a humanitarian emergency in Gorazde where wide swathes of the town have been gutted by Serb artillery in a year-long siege that intensified three weeks ago but abated when the UNMOS arrived.

Hundreds have been killed and wounded, UNMOS said Gorazde was gravely short of food and clean water and its hospital overwhelmed by wounded with little means of treating them.

Sarajevo radio quoted a Gorazde ham radio operator as saying Serb attacks continued Saturday with the strongest thrusts on the settlement of Donja Ljajica where Bosnian

government army defence lines were breached Friday.

It reported heavy fighting in two other front-line villages, Lovacki and Zigovi with losses on both sides. The Serbs were pouring in reinforcements and the radio said UNMOS were touring the front to assess the situation.

Relative calm reigned in Sarajevo with occasional sniper fire in the centre and the nearby frontline precinct of Hrasno. Fighting slackened off in the Muslim-Croat war zone of central Bosnia where Muslim forces launched an offensive early this month for living space to compensate for huge losses to Serbs in the north and east over the past year.

Vesko Vasev, spokesman for the Croatian Militia Army (HVO), reported gunfire by both sides "on the level of provocations" in the divided city of Mostar where frontline troops were dug in only 10 metres apart in some places.

Owen urges U.N. voluntary force

LONDON (R) — International negotiator Lord Owen has called for U.N. reforms including a voluntary peacekeeping force, expansion of the Security Council and a command and control facility at its New York Headquarters.

The former British foreign minister, who has spent much of the past year trying to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the war in Bosnia, said Germany and Japan and possibly India, Nigeria and Brazil should be made members of the council.

"It is patently absurd that the economic strength and the political clout of the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan are not reflected in the permanent membership of the Security Council," he said in a speech in London.

Lord Owen, the European Community's chief negotiator on Yugoslavia, has admitted that the multi-ethnic peace plan for Bosnia that he devised with former U.N. mediator Cyrus Vance had failed but he said some aspects of it should be salvaged.

He added that there were lessons to be learned from the Bos-

nian crisis and stressed the importance of a volunteer U.N. force.

"There is everything to recommend U.N. forces being solely and wholly made up of volunteers... such a force should be specifically and collectively trained with an ethos of U.N. peacekeeping and peace-making."

Lord Owen said the scope for military intervention in the former Yugoslavia is constrained due to the terrain and the complexity of the war and called for a centralised U.N. control centre.

Elcibey expected to return to Baku

BAKU (AFP) — Enbattled Azerbaijani President Abulfaz Elcibey, who fled from here overnight Friday to his hometown in the Azeri republic of Nakhichevan, was expected to return to his post in the capital, Foreign Ministry officials said Saturday.

The press service of the Foreign Ministry said that Mr. Elcibey remained Azerbaijan's president but that for the time being he was in Nakhichevan, an autonomous republic sandwiched between Iran, Armenia and Turkey.

Meanwhile, rebel troops loyal to commander Suret Guseinov were refusing to drop demands for Mr. Elcibey's resignation, the Assa-irada news agency reported.

The rebel troops had taken up positions about 80 kilometres outside of Baku and were facing government troops, according to

a separate report by Interfax.

The report added that the Azerbaijan Defence Ministry had given the order to the government troops not to open fire on the rebels.

Azerbaijani strongman Geidar Aliyev dispatched former Defence Minister Rahim Gazyev to Gyandzha, the rebels' stronghold and the country's second largest city, to hold talks with Mr. Guseinov, Assa-irada reported.

Mr. Gazyev was sacked by Mr. Elcibey in February, three days before Mr. Guseinov was fired from his post as commander of Azeri forces in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mr. Aliyev, a former leader of the Azerbaijan Communist Party who made a dramatic comeback this week when he was elected parliamentary speaker, was also

holding crisis negotiations with Mr. Elcibey and with representatives of political parties, Interfax said.

The talks came after Mr. Aliyev told parliament on Friday that Mr. Elcibey remained Azerbaijan's president in what amounted to an about-turn from his earlier announcement on Azerbaijan Television that he was taking over as head of state.

Mr. Elcibey travelled early Friday morning to his native city of Ordubad in Nakhichevan "on personal business," Russian Television reported on Friday.

An earlier statement put out by the presidential press service said that Mr. Elcibey was forced to flee the capital "to ensure his personal security" and "to prevent clashes from occurring in Baku."

U.S. admiral: 10 carriers may lead to problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Pentagon proposal to cut the navy to 10 aircraft carriers could lead to longer deployments for sailors or a lack of U.S. military presence in certain areas of the world, the navy's top admiral warned.

Adm. Frank Kelso II, the navy's chief of naval operations, refused to criticise the proposal directly, offering instead a staccato defence of the service's reasoning for holding the line at a dozen of the powerful warships.

"I want to stay at 12," Adm. Kelso told reporters Friday. "I'm not saying it's a dumb idea, I'm saying I prefer to stay at 12."

The proposal is one of the options being put forward in De-

fence Secretary Les Aspin's "bottom up review," which is also looking at cuts in other services, such as 10 active army divisions instead of 12, and 20 air force aircraft wings instead of 26.5.

Adm. Kelso pointed to no-fly zones in operation over Bosnia, as well as that continuing over Iraq, as evidence that America will be called upon more and more to police far-flung areas of the world.

"We're going to be more involved in peacekeeping in the days ahead. To me, it's an issue of employment in peace as much as anything else," Adm. Kelso said.

The four-star admiral said he is pelted with questions from sailors

about potential nine-month deployments, and that he insists that that won't happen. Such lengthy deployments sapped the navy more than a decade ago, when sailors left the service in droves.

"So the issue of how many carriers should we have is important in the personnel equation," Adm. Kelso said. "If you don't match force structure to what you're going to have for commitments, you squeeze people and readiness."

The admiral said "nine-month deployments... over an extended period of time will get you poor retention. ... We've had that in the past, and we will have to adjust our operating patterns."

Tension mounts in Nigeria after polls

LAGOS (AFP) — Nigerian presidential candidate Moshood Abiola has declared himself the winner of elections and demanded the publication of the results by the National Electoral Commission (NEC), his party aides said.

Nigeria has been verging on crisis since the NEC suspended its release of the full results of the June 12 poll after a shadowy pressure group close to the ruling junta of President Ibrahim Babangida won a high court ruling in Abuja.

"The action of the NEC is already causing serious tension," Mr. Abiola's Social Democratic Party (SDP) said in a statement late Friday. The party accused the NEC of "creating doubts"

about the military's willingness to hand over to civilians, as scheduled for Aug. 27.

"(The NEC has) exposed us to international ridicule," the SDP added.

Supporters of Mr. Abiola's rival, Bashir Othman Tafa of the National Republican Convention, demonstrated in the northern states of Niger, Kano and Kaduna, calling for the elections to be declared void, state television reported.

Initial NEC results gave Mr. Abiola 4.3 million votes, well ahead of Tafa with 2.3 million. The SDP has published what it called complete results, unconfirmed by the NEC, which stated that Mr. Abiola had taken 8,028,736 votes, or 57.86 per cent

of the total cast, against 5,846,584 votes for Tafa, or 42.14 per cent.

Senate Speaker Iyorchia Ayu and his House of Representatives counterpart, Aguiwa Anaeke, have called on General Babangida to order immediate publication of the results. Sen. Ayu and Mr. Anaeke are both SDP members.

As other political and religious leaders appealed for calm, diplomats said they feared that Africa's most populous nation could be plunged into civil war.

The high courts in Lagos, Benin City and Ibadan have ordered the NEC to publish the results before Sunday. But the NEC appears to be honouring the ruling of the court in Abuja, the capital.

Timekeepers to give world an extra second on June 30

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — On June 30 you get an extra second tacked on to the day. One second will be added to the National Institute of Standards and Technology's atomic timekeeping system in Boulder and at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C., institute officials said.

The second is being added to the super-accurate atomic clocks, which are the foundation of the world's timekeeping system, to keep them in sync with the Earth's rotation. The agency said the Earth's rotation is only accurate within one-thousandth of a second per day and has a tendency to speed up or slow down.

The government's newest atomic clock is accurate to within a few billionths of a second per day. The extra second, which will come at midnight GMT or 8 p.m. EDT on June 30, is the 18th "leap" second since 1972.

Spain buys world's 2nd biggest private art collection

MADRID (AFP) — Spain has bought the world's second biggest private art collection for \$338 million, Spanish Culture Minister Jordi Soler Tura said. The cabinet Friday approved a decree buying the 775 masterpieces in the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection from their current owner, the Favortina Trustees Limited, capping six years of negotiations. The value of the collection was estimated at \$1.7 billion in 1990 by the Sotheby's auction house, making it the most extensive private art collection after that of Britain's Queen Elizabeth. Some 715 paintings from the collection are currently on display at Madrid's Villahermosa Palace, with another 60 due to be exhibited at the Pedrales monastery in Barcelona, said Soler Tura. Among famous works included in the collection are the Harlequin by Picasso, the Annunciation by Jan Van Eyck and the portrait of a Cavalier by Caraccio. The purchase will ensure the works stay in Spain, officials said. Other would-be buyers included the Paul Getty Foundation in California and Swiss museums. The collection previously belonged to Baron Thyssen, whose wife is the former Miss Spain Carmen Carrera.

Mother reunites with son nabbed 32 years ago

PEKING (AFP) — A Chinese mother has been reunited with her son after he mysteriously disappeared 32 years ago, the Legal Daily said. Wu Guizhen, with the help of police, produced a letter in the Legal Daily asking for any information leading to her son Lu Qingjun who went missing on Jan. 22, 1961. After receiving a tip, Wu recently got word from Xinjiang, in China's far west, that Lu was alive and well. She learned that a white slave trader had taken her son when she was away on business 32 years ago, and eventually dumped him at a rail station after he became ill in Tongshan in eastern China, where a local woman later took in the boy. He later joined the army and was sent to Xinjiang, where he got married and had a family. Lu planned to return to see his mother in the near future, the paper said.

White House visitor walks into detention

WASHINGTON (AP) — An incident at the White House has confirmed that the presidential complex is not the healthiest place for a fugitive from justice to visit. Demetrius Papademetriou, 42, of Fairfax, Va., arrived at the White House for an appointment. Secret Service agents manning the entrance gate went through the standard routine of running his name through their computer. Their security system worked. The computer showed an outstanding warrant on him for possession of stolen property. The officers confirmed the warrant, then placed him under arrest, said Secret Service spokesman Curtis Eldridge. Mr. Papademetriou was handed over to District of Columbia Police. The Secret Service did not disclose whom Mr. Papademetriou had an appointment to visit.

Police hunt called off after girl stages hoax kidnap

LONDON (R) — British police called off a kidnap hunt after a 14-year-old girl admitted she left a plea for help on an answering machine as a prank. Police interviewed the girl but said she would not be charged for causing the false alarm. Her message, left on the answering machine of a company in Warwick, central England, said in a faltering voice: "Please someone help me. I need help. I'm... the old broken down shed in Harbury, somewhere in Harbury, I think... these people have got me here. Please help."

NEWS IN BRIEF

EC leaders meet Monday

COPENHAGEN (R) — European Community (EC) leaders gather for a summit meeting Monday amid fears of a repeat of bloody riots that followed Denmark's Maastricht Treaty referendum last month. Left-wing demonstrators who figured in Denmark's worst post-war riots after Danes voted "yes" to the EC's union treaty on May 18 say they will stage five days of peaceful protests around the two-day summit. The police, mounting their biggest security operation since the last EC summit in Copenhagen in 1987, are hoping for the best but preparing for the worst. "I hope that the Danish historical way of making manifestations — the humorous, peaceful way — will take over," Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen told Reuters in an interview. "My hope is that the demonstrations will be peaceful, will be clear, but not using violent measures. I hope that what we saw on the night after the referendum will not be seen ever more in my country," he said.

Arson injures 2 foreigners in Germany

KIEL, Germany (AFP) — Amnesty International has called for the United Nations to station an observer in Germany as police said Saturday that another arson attack on an asylum-seekers hostel injured two foreigners. The two foreigners were hospitalized with slight injuries after unidentified arsonists used an inflammable liquid to set fire to a hostel in Raisdorf, near the north German city, at about 3 a.m. (0100 GMT), police said. Police were not sure if the injured persons' nationalities, but one had hurt himself when jumping out of a window to escape the fire, and the other had suffered smoke inhalation. Meanwhile, a young German woman and her child died in a fire in Berlin Saturday, police reported. Police said they could not determine whether it was arson. The fire broke out in the basement of a house in the Berlin's Kreuzberg neighbourhood, which has a large Turkish community.

Yeltsin tours Yakutia

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin met with local leaders and toured a jewelry factory in the diamond-rich Siberian Republic of Yakutia Saturday to rally regional support for his new constitution, news media said. Mr. Yeltsin, who arrived Friday in the region 5,000 kilometres east of Moscow, told residents they should be allowed to exercise greater economic control over their abundant natural resources. He was trying to garner support from the independent-minded Yakutia for his draft post-Soviet constitution. Yakutia has partially broken from Moscow since signing the federation treaty last year binding together Russia's 20 ethnic republics. Yeltsin also was trying to soothe a renewed dispute over Russia's diamonds and gold. Yakutia, with a population of about 1.2 million, mines about 35 per cent of the gold and 96 per cent of diamonds for Russia, which in turn account for about one-fourth of the world's supply of the uncut gems.

Cosmonauts complete space walk

MOSCOW (R) — Two Russian cosmonauts completed a four and a half hour space walk Saturday to carry out work on the orbiting station Mir. ITAR-TASS News Agency said. Gennady Manakov and Alexander Poleshchuk, who had run into a series of hitches on their last walk on April 20, replaced a lost handle on a loading boom and used it to mount a new electric drive for solar batteries. The two cosmonauts, who have manned Mir for the past five months, returned safely to their cabin after four hours and 33 minutes and TASS said both felt fine. Mir has been the focus of the Soviet, and now Commonwealth, space programme since its launch in 1986.

Landslide kills 11 in China

PEKING (R) — A Landslide in northwest China's Lanzhou province Wednesday killed seven women and four men, the official Xinhua News Agency said Saturday. All the dead were

part of a contingent of 20 farmers doing casual labour at a brickworks at the base of a mountain slope when the ground above them started to move without warning. The other nine people escaped unhurt.

French assembly approves immigrant law

PARIS (R) — Parliament approved a controversial bill Friday restricting the right of foreigners to enter and reside in France — the latest in a series of moves by the new conservative government to curb immigration and crime. The 480 to 88 vote in the National Assembly (lower house) reflected the four-fifths majority enjoyed by Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's centre-right coalition. His government's bill was toughened up as right-wingers in the Assembly pushed through several amendments during debate this week. It now goes to the Senate (upper house) for approval. The planned law aims to curb clandestine immigration by clamping down on abuse of political asylum, marriages of convenience and family reunification. Foreigners sometimes use such methods to obtain the right to stay in France. Anti-racist and human rights groups, as well as the small Socialist and Communist opposition in parliament, have attacked the plan and called nationwide demonstrations against it.

Indian party rallies behind Rao

NEW DELHI (R) — India's Congress Party closed ranks further behind embattled Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Saturday in the face of allegations that he accepted a suitcase of money from a stockbroker known as "Big Bull". The Congress Party's deputies in parliament passed a resolution expressing their "full faith" in the 71-year-old reformist prime minister, who had already won backing from his cabinet of ministers and a top policy-making party committee. But lawyers for Harshad Mehta, a swashbuckling broker known as "Big Bull", said they have evidence, including an audio tape, to prove Mr. Rao accepted a big campaign donation. Although Congress is rallying behind Mr. Rao, it is almost certain to face a no-confidence motion when parliament reconvenes next month, analysts said. The 38-year-old Mr. Mehta, who once owned 30 cars, is free on bail and is fighting charges of bribery, fraud and currency violations.

Haiti rulers condemn U.N. sanctions

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — Haiti's military rulers Friday condemned a United Nations oil and arms embargo and expressed surprise that the sanctions came less than 48 hours after lawmakers had voted to recognise exiled Jean-Bertrand Aristide as president. Pro-military parliamentarians voted Tuesday to formally recognise Mr. Aristide as president under conditions that gave him no real power and left him in exile. The move was widely seen as an attempt by the military to forestall U.N. sanctions. In a communique broadcast on local radio — its first public acknowledgement of the U.N. sanctions — the army high command "has noted that the (U.N.) resolution was voted less than 48 hours after the National Assembly had voted the decree recognising President Aristide's legitimacy." The communique said the U.N. decision "puts the country in the incredible position to continue negotiations under the threat of sanctions which aim to aggravate the suffering of the Haitian people."

Sharif welcomes president's gesture

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has welcomed President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's move for mutual reconciliation in the wake of a power struggle, press reports said Saturday. "I am ready to meet with the president a hundred times in the interest of the country," influential Urdu daily newspaper Nawa-i-Waqat quoted Mr. Sharif as saying in response to Mr. Ishaq Khan's statement that he was eager to see him. The president said Friday he had submitted to the May 26 Supreme Court judgment a statement reversing the dissolution of the National Assembly and sacking of Mr. Sharif.

Croatia looks to Europe Championships after loss in Cap D'Adga

CAP D'ADGA, France (AP) — Croatia's basketball team looked to the European Championships in basketball after its surprising loss at the hands of the Italian team at the Mediterranean Games.

Italy beat Croatia, 77-74, in the final depriving the Croatian team a first major championship as an independent nation.

Yugoslavia had won European and world championships, coach Mirko Novosel had won an Olympic title in 1980, upsetting the Soviet Union in Moscow.

After the breakup of Yugoslavia, Croatia sought to make a name for itself.

Croatia was the silver medalist behind the U.S. dream team at the Olympics last summer at Barcelona. It gave the American team a contest for most of the first half before the Americans went on to a 32-point victory at 117-85.

This year the Croatians suffered more than a loss on court.

Drazen Petrovic, its leader and captain, was killed in an automobile accident in Germany a week before the start of the basketball tournament. Petrovic was known as the man who put Croatia on the map.

He gained fame as a third-team NBA All-Star guard for the New Jersey Nets.

"Without Drazen Petrovic, the team isn't the same," said Boris Lalic, the president of the Croatian basketball team. "With a week off before the tournament, you couldn't expect miracles. We didn't have the same rhythm against an excellent Italian team."

The Croatians were late in arriving to the basketball tournament to attend the Petrovic funeral. The opening game against France was rescheduled.

Croatia also missed Toni Kukoc, who was the next star after Petrovic. He is having contract discussions with the Chicago Bulls of the NBA after being released from his Italian club.

The loss denied the Croatians a chance to win the tournament named after its late captain, Petrovic. The Croatian players had black tape above the Croatian shield on their uniforms in his memory. Below the trophy was a poster of Petrovic in his honour.

But it was Italy that went away with the gold medal and the trophy.

Elbio regains Royal Ascot sprint crown

ASCOT, England (R) — Veteran Elbio roared back from injury with a blistering dash to overshadow the young pretenders and win back his Royal Ascot Sprint Championship Friday.

Darting up the rails, Elbio mastered 11-10 on favourite Wolfhound by two lengths in the King's Stand Stakes, a race he won in 1991 and in which finished an unlucky third last year.

Elbio, at six-years-old the senior member of the field, had met with triple setbacks since his honourable fifth in the Breeders' Cup series in Miami last autumn.

Trainer Peter Makin feared he was running out of time preparing for the horse's favourite race.

"You name it, he's had it," said Makin. "He went down with the blood disorder that hit most of my horses, pulled back muscles, then had problems with an infected joint."

But the 12-1 chance was fit and well Friday and even caught jockey Walter Swinburn by surprise.

"I couldn't believe how well he was travelling two-and-a-half furlongs (500 metres) out," Swinburn said. "I was in serious danger of hitting the front too soon, so had to take a pull. His speed was brilliant."

World Cup preliminaries Jordan meet Pakistan, Iraq face China today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

JORDAN MEET Pakistan and China clash with Iraq Sunday, the final day of the Asian Group A qualifying matches for the 1994 World Cup.

The Jordanian team, who have had a series of disappointing results especially in the Second Leg of the tournament, will be aiming to score a morale-boosting win over the winless Pakistani team.

The Iraq-China clash will have no effect on the standings of the group, as Iraq have already secured qualification to the six-team second round, that will determine the two Asian teams which will go to the finals in the United States.

In addition to Iraq, Japan, Saudi Arabia, North Korea and South Korea have already qualified. The sixth team will be either Iran or Syria.

In their match against hosts, China, Iraq will seek to maintain their unbeaten streak after their impressive 4-0 wins over Pakistan and Jordan and a 3-0 win over Yemen in the Second Leg of the tournament.

The Chinese team lost their chance to qualify after losing 1-0 to Yemen and Iraq in First Leg in Irbid.

In their latest match they scored a 1-0 win over Yemen from a controversial penalty kick in the 86th minute.

The win put China in second place.

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Iraq	7	6	1	0	27	2	13
China	7	5	0	2	16	3	10
Yemen	8	3	2	3	12	13	8
Jordan	7	1	3	3	7	15	5
Pakistan	7	0	0	7	2	31	0

NBA finals Suns keep championship series alive

CHICAGO (AFP) — The Phoenix Suns kept the National Basketball Association championship alive by spoiling the Chicago Bulls' premature victory celebrations Friday.

Victory would have been enough to settle the final for the Bulls, who led 3-1 before Friday's fifth game in the best-of-seven series.

But the Suns hit back to win 108-98, despite another virtuoso performance by Michael Jordan for the Bulls.

Already averaging 42.6 points per game in the finals, Jordan topped again with 41.

But an all-round performance by the opposition — with Richard Dumas (25 points), Charles Barkley (24) and Kevin Johnson (25) the key men — eclipsed him.

No team has ever come back from a 3-1 deficit to win the championship series but the Phoenix side are in no doubt they can defy history.

Barkley said: "I believe it is our destiny to win."

The only problem facing the Suns in the next match Sunday may be home advantage, for they have lost all three encounters at their America West Arena against the Bulls this season.

The Suns never trailed in the second half Friday and managed to keep their nerve when Jordan launched a late rally, hitting two free throws and a bank shot to close the gap to 99-92.

Johnson, however, responded immediately with a three-point play to snuff out the comeback.

Barkley added after the game: "God wants us to win the world championships. I talked to him the other night."

Meanwhile, Jordan had advice for distraught teammate Horace Grant: "Keep your head high and come back and redeem yourself in game 6."

Grant was in tears after the Chicago Bulls, aiming to clinch their third straight title before their home fans, lost to Phoenix, keeping the Suns in the running for the NBA.

Grant was limited to one point and only seven rebounds in game 5 and centre Bill Cartwright managed only two points and two rebounds.

"This was one of the worst nights of my life," said Grant, who had 17 points and 16 rebounds in game 4. "I let my teammates down. It's a very disappointing loss, tough to swallow. They blocked me off the offensive boards."

Grant had only one offensive rebound and he didn't fare much better defensively as Charles Barkley scored 24 points, most against him, in the first three quarters.

"I was out of sync all night," Grant said. "You have to tip your hat to Phoenix, they played hard. Now we have to go there and get one."

Jordan felt for Grant.

"Horace Grant is probably feeling the worst of all of us," Jordan said. "But he shouldn't hang his head low. He should keep it high and come back strong in the next game."

That game will be played in Phoenix and if the Bulls, who hold a 3-2 lead in the series, don't clinch it then, game 7 will be played there Wednesday night.

"We felt they would try to shut down the middle and shut down my penetration because it really hurt them the last game," said Jordan, who had 55 in the game 4 victory. "We didn't have the lanes to penetrate which is a credit to their defensive adjustments."

Jordan also felt the Bulls couldn't get it together.

"Sometimes the desire, the heart and the energy to achieve is there, but the body and mind don't always act as one. We were a step slow, our reaction was slow and it showed."



Charles Barkley leads the Suns' celebrations after scoring the previous win.

Agassi risks 1st round exit at Wimbledon

LONDON (AFP) — In the 25 years since the All England Championships entered the Open era no champion has lost in the first round at Wimbledon. Andre Agassi could be about to end that run.

No holder has ever gone into the world's premier tournament as badly prepared as the American will be when he walks out to face Bernd Karbacher at 2:00 p.m. on Monday.

In the last ten weeks Agassi has played a solitary match, losing in three sets to Carl-Uwe Steeb in Germany six days before he takes his Wimbledon bow.

The flamboyant Las Vegas, dogged by tendonitis in his right wrist all year, looked overweight and out-of-condition as he lost to an opponent he would have wiped off court this time last year.

Despite the setback, Agassi vowed to keep his centre court appointment. "It is maybe a once-in-a-lifetime chance to go there and defend the title and I am committed regardless," he said.

"If I lose at Wimbledon I will go down with every bit of effort and energy I have."

A mammoth effort could be required. His German opponent has won over Boris Becker and Michael Chang this season.

If Agassi does survive Karbacher, life should be easier up to a fourth round match with Dutchman Richard Krajicek. Returning the fastest serve in tennis will soon expose any lingering weakness in the eighth seed's wrist.

Krajicek was a French Open semi-finalist this year but for all his power has fallen at the third round stage in his two previous Wimbledon and succumbed to

Australia's Wally Masur at Rosmalen last week.

Stefan Edberg, the bookmaker's favourite to add to his 1988 and 1990 titles, has had his odds reduced by his draw. The Swede, seeded second to Pete Sampras, will not meet a major grass court specialist before the semi-finals.

Thomas Muster, his scheduled fourth round opponent, has yet to win a match at Wimbledon while Ivan Lendl, due to face the Swede in the quarters, has given up all hope of ever winning the one Grand Slam to elude him.

And on his current dismal form, the Czech will be denied a crack at Edberg by Andrei Medvedev.

The 18-year-old Ukrainian, who makes his debut, says he has "about five minutes" experience on grass. But he still won't look more of a novice than Lendl does after 15 years of practice.

Medvedev, seeded ten after reaching the French Open semi-finals, also has nothing to fear from Edberg, whom he outplayed completely in the quarter finals at Roland Garros.

Another American in trouble is world number one Pete Sampras, who is now doubtful to start the tournament. But ever since he took over from Jim Courier as world number one in April, Sampras has had to face accusations that his Grand Slam record — one win at the U.S. Open three years ago — is not worthy of the world's best.

Proving the critics wrong would not have been easy as an opener against Neil Borwick would lead the American to Jamie Morgan, a far more deadly Australian.

Morgan dumped Edberg out of the Queen's Club tournament last week and had four match points



Stefan Edberg

against Michael Stich in the semi-final.

Stich, who beat Becker in the quarter finals, went on to win the annual Wimbledon warm-up and is running Edberg close in the betting.

To win, the 1991 champion will probably have to beat Becker again at the quarter-final stage. The German duo are 3-3 in career meetings but on grass Stich has won both matches — last week and the 1991 final.

Becker had a miserable season on clay after being out with injury and illness for nearly two months earlier in the season. That run cost Gumbert Bresnik his job as coach but back on grass and under the guidance of former Davis Cup teammate Eric Jelen, there were signs of a Becker revival at Queen's.

Becker has a tough first round match against his compatriot

Marc Gollner, the player the German press have dubbed "baby boom boom" after wins this season over Edberg, Lendl and Chang.

But the upsets were all on clay and before Queen's, Gollner's experience on grass amounted to five years of cricket as a youngster growing up in Australia.

The women's competition will be dominated by Martina Navratilova's bid for a record tenth title in what is almost certain to be an emotional farewell appearance.

The 36-year-old American could not have had a better chance of going out in a blaze of glory.

In the absence of Monica Seles, still recovering from her on-court stabbing in April, the seedings committee bowed to the veteran's record and installed her as second seed — ensuring she avoids Steffi Graf until the final.

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GET THE TIMING RIGHT

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ 7 2

♥ 4

♦ A K 7 2

♣ A K J 4

WEST

♠ A Q 8 4

♥ K 10 7 5

♦ Q 9

♣ 8 7 5

EAST

♠ 6

♥ J 9

♦ J 8 5 4

♣ Q 10 9 8 3 2

SOUTH

♠ K J 10 5 3

♥ A Q 8 3 2

♦ 10 6 3

♣ Void

The bidding:

North East South West

1♣ Pass 1♦ Pass

1NT Pass 3♥ Pass

3♠ Pass 4♥ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

For almost two decades now, Jeff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell have been one of the most successful pairs on the world bridge scene. This hand, played in the second round of the Spingold Teams at the recent Summer North American Championships in Toronto, bears testimony to their skill.

At both tables the final contract was four spades by South, after similar auctions. Note Meckstroth's decision with the North hand to bid three spades at his third turn rather than three no trump — his hand was well suited to a spade slam if that's what South was angling for, and confirming three-card support could be important.

The bad breaks in the major suits resulted in the opposing South going down a trick at four spades. Rodwell won the diamond opening in dummy with the king and immediately took the losing heart finesse. West continued with a diamond to the ace. The ace and king of clubs took care of the remaining diamond and a heart, and declarer led a heart to the jack and ace.

A heart was ruffed on the table with the nine, and East could not overruff. A club ruff in hand was followed by another spade ruff with the seven, still too high for East to overruff. With eight tricks in the bank, declarer simply led a trump to the jack. West could win the queen, but no matter which trump the defender returned, declarer was guaranteed two more tricks and the game.

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Baghdad links U.N. monitoring with lifting of sanctions

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq said Saturday that it was willing to consider long-term U.N. monitoring of its weapons systems but only with assurances that compliance would lead to a lifting of economic sanctions.

The state-run Iraqi News Agency (INA), monitored in Nicosia, reported that Baghdad's U.N. mission had issued a statement saying: "It is unjust to ask everything from Iraq in return for nothing."

On Friday, the U.N. Security Council said Iraq was breaking Gulf war ceasefire commitments by preventing weapons inspectors from installing surveillance cameras at missile test sites.

The U.N. Special Commission, charged with ensuring that Iraq refrains from building weapons of mass destruction, says it needs the cameras to make sure Iraq will not develop missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres (see page 2).

After the 1991 Gulf war that liberated Kuwait, the U.N. Security Council ordered the dismantling of Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction and ability to produce them. These included biological and chemical weapons, a nuclear weapons programme and long-range ballistic missiles.

Iraq has said it does not object to the principle of using the cameras but to the legal justification for them. It contends the cameras are not authorised under the main Gulf war ceasefire resolution 687, but under another, No. 715 on long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons programmes. Iraq says Resolution 715 is still under negotiation and it is not bound by its terms.

The statement reported Saturday said Iraq had fulfilled the "vital parts" of its obligations under Resolution 687, yet there was not sign the Security Council was willing to lift the trade embargo imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

It said Baghdad was ready to coordinate compliance on Resolution 715 with the special commission "if the Security Council showed its readiness to study lifting the embargo."

"Iraq is ready to carry out the rest of its commitments. The Security Council must be ready to carry out its commitments and

not put more political conditions on Iraq," the statement said.

Aziz heads for Geneva

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz left Amman for Geneva Saturday for talks with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, officials said.

The Iraqi official did not speak to reporters before leaving. U.N. sources said Dr. Ghali was expected to raise a longstanding U.N. proposal to let Iraq sell limited amounts of oil under U.N. supervision to raise money for food and medicine and pay Gulf war reparations.

Israel's nuclear weapons

Iraq has complained to the United Nations that Israel has confirmed it possesses nuclear weapons but that the Security Council displayed a double standard by doing nothing about it.

In a letter to the council president published Friday, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahaf cited a recent speech by Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur on the 12th anniversary of Israel's attack on an Iraqi nuclear reactor.

Mr. Gur was quoted as having said that Arab leaders must realise that a nuclear attack on Israel could not be to their advantage because "we are capable of responding in a hundredfold."

Mr. Sahaf said this was "unequivocal and indubitable confirmation that Israel does have nuclear weapons and that it possesses a large stock of them."

General Mordechai Gur speaks clearly and shamelessly of the hundreds of nuclear strikes that Israel can make against the Arab countries," the Iraqi minister added.

Referring to the Gulf war resolution calling for the scrapping of Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction, he said the Security Council had done nothing about another part of the same resolution saying this represented "steps towards the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and all missiles for their delivery and the objective of a global ban on chemical weapons."



Egyptian security forces block streets in the Shubra district of Cairo Friday night after a bomb exploded at a construction site (AFP photo)

Seven dead, 65 detained as Cairo blast sparks protests

CAIRO (Agencies) — Police Saturday detained 65 suspects after a bomb packed with nails went off in a crowded slum district of the Egyptian capital and killed seven people, sparking protests against Islamic militants.

The blast late Friday, the eighth in Cairo so far this year, targeted the northern district of Shubra. It ripped through a workers' shed used by French engineers on the site of a new subway line.

Police raided several districts of the capital and rounded up 65 Muslim fundamentalists on suspicion of involvement in the bombing.

Seven Egyptians were killed and 20 wounded, including four who were listed Saturday in critical condition. Two of the dead were children.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but the official news agency MENA said the bomb appeared to be of a sort used in previous blasts blamed on Islamic militants.

The bomb, made up of TNT, sprayed nails which were found embedded in nearby walls and also started a fire. Most of the casualties were in a cafe.

Residents of Shubra, home to one million inhabitants, held protests late Friday to denounce the escalation of violence.

The latest attack came just hours after Defence Minister Hussein Tantawi warned the army would be deployed "if necessary" to combat the year-long campaign by Islamic militants to overthrow the government.

The armed forces would re-

main "vigilant" and "could intervene if the situation required it," he said.

In the last bombing, also blamed on the militants, two Egyptians were killed and six British tourists injured on June 8 on the road to the Pyramids.

In the southern city of Assiut, a centre of Islamic extremism, two people were killed and three wounded Saturday when gunmen tried to assassinate the head of the local police intelligence unit, police said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmad Makary, a bystander and an aide were among the wounded and a second aide was killed in the attack at the city's main rail station, said an officer. The second dead man was one of the gunmen, hit when police returned fire.

Police said the attempt on Col. Makary's life was believed linked to his discovery two days earlier of a shipment of explosives headed from Assiut to Cairo.

In Friday night's Cairo blast, the opposition Al Wafd newspaper speculated that the explosives could have been aimed at the French contractors. But the blast came at night on a holy day when neither French nor Egyptian workers were at the site.

The Egyptian authorities meanwhile decided to control all foreign mail as part of a crackdown on Muslim fundamentalist unrest, an Interior Ministry official said.

"We have found out that terrorists are receiving instructions to carry out attacks in letters mailed from abroad," the official said.

The armed forces would re-

In May the authorities decided to restrict telephone and telefax links from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Sudan, as part of the campaign to combat Islamic militants.

Egyptian Islamic militant leaders who later fled opened fire on policemen, killing one and wounding two.

Police said the militants belonged to the outlawed Al Gama'a, Al Islamiyyah and described Mr. Hammam as "one of the most dangerous terrorists and a leader of the Gama'a who took part in several terrorist attacks."

The Gama'a has led the year-long campaign to destabilise the government, with the tourism industry bearing the brunt of its violence.

The militants have stepped up their campaign in recent months, at the risk of unpopularity among the poorest sector of Egyptian society which sympathises with their cause and benefits from social welfare programmes run by Muslim fundamentalists.

A military court sentenced seven militants to death in April and ordered jail terms for 25 others after finding them guilty of several of the attacks.

A militant leader believed to have led attacks on tourist targets in Upper Egypt, 23-year-old Ahmad Zaki, was shot dead in a police raid in Assiut on March 17.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Non-aligned resist human rights campaigns

TOKYO (AFP) — Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) information ministers have vowed to fight the use of human rights to exert "political pressure" on their countries, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored here, said Saturday. At a four-day meeting, which ended in North Korea's capital of Pyongyang on Friday, the ministers also expressed concern over what they called a growing trend for "informal, non-transparent" negotiations in the United Nations. Pyongyang's official KCNA said. The fourth conference of NAM information ministers, attended by delegates from 23 countries, adopted a declaration, alleging that mass media in developed countries "ignore the interests of and distort the events in non-aligned and developing nations," KCNA said. Also in the declaration, they said: "Human rights should not be used as a means of political pressure upon non-aligned countries."

Pakistani 'spy' arrested in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A Pakistani spy who has alleged links with Sikh and Muslim separatists in India was arrested here as he was on his way to Nepal, the New Delhi police said Saturday. Mohammad Sharif, 33, was caught late Friday at the main railway station shortly before he was to leave for the northern Indian town of Gorakhpur, Delhi Police Commissioner Mukund Kaushal told reporters. The suspect was a member of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and was carrying an Indian passport and driving licence bearing the name Pawar Kumar Sharma, Mr. Kaushal said.

Moroccan tribunal fines newspaper

RABAT (R) — A Rabat tribunal has ordered the Moroccan daily Al Alam (the flag) to pay a 300,000-dirham (\$34,000) fine for libelling a lawyer, a spokesman for the Moroccan Human Rights Association said. The tribunal also sentenced an Al Alam reporter to a two-month suspended jail term and fined both the reporter and the paper's editor 1,000 dirhams (about \$110). Lawyer Mohammad Zianem, a member of the pro-government Union Constitutionelles Party, brought the case against Al Alam over its report on drug trafficking in the northern town of Tangier.

Tamil rebels agree to release 39 hostages

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil separatist guerrillas Saturday agreed to release 39 security personnel they have held for three years, a military spokesman said. The surprise gesture by the guerrillas to free all their hostages in one go was seen as a move that could bring the warring sides closer to resuming peace negotiations. But the decision by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) conveyed through the International Committee of the Red Cross, baffled the military, which had been trying to negotiate the captives' release for six months.

Iran plans for Central Asia links

CRANS, Switzerland (R) — Iran Saturday outlined an ambitious plan for transport and communications links with the former Soviet states of Central Asia and the Caucasus to be built over the next decade. Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told an international conference at this Swiss mountain resort Tehran had set trade and cooperation with its newly independent neighbours and other states in the region as one of its top priorities. "Our utmost desire and wish is for peace and stability in the region... this can be best achieved through a policy of cooperation for development," Mr. Velayati declared. He said Iran was already embarked on a comprehensive programme of building roads, bridges across border rivers and opening frontier posts on borders which were largely closed until the collapse of the old Soviet Union. Among the projects were roads into Turkmenistan which could provide an axis for overland communications between all five new Central Asian states and Iran, Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The nine countries and Transcaucasian Azerbaijan for the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) which aims to promote regional social and economic development.

Hekmatyar still absent from Kabul

CHARASIAB, Afghanistan (AFP) — Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar held a special commission meeting outside Kabul Saturday, scotching rumours that he would convene a cabinet meeting in the capital. Mr. Hekmatyar, who for security reasons was inaugurated two days ago in a secret ceremony to the west of Kabul, sent his newly appointed administrative officer to visit the prime minister's office in the capital. Meanwhile, he chaired a meeting of the Interior Ministry commission at his Charasiab headquarters 25 kilometres to the southeast. "The prime minister's administrative officer Gulbuddin Hilar was in Kabul today, but no final decision has yet been reached when the PM himself will go," said Abdul Saboor, Mr. Hekmatyar's Charasiab secretary.

Israeli vessels diverted by U.S. navy

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The U.S. Navy enforcing a three-year-old embargo against Iraq, has diverted two Israeli-flagged vessels bound for Israel's Red Sea port of Eilat, a navy spokesman disclosed Saturday. "We're consistent and we're unbiased. Vessels of all nations, including the United States, are subjected to inspections," said the spokesman, Bruce Cole, commenting on the interception of Israeli vessels, the least likely to be trading in any form with Iraq. Israeli press reports recently complained that naval interceptions were hindering the trade flow to Israel. Lieutenant-Commander Cole said the Israeli-flagged container ships Zim Osaka and Zim Venezia were intercepted and diverted respectively Monday and Tuesday. Cargo on deck had been stacked more than three rows high in violation of regulations, which had been communicated to shipping companies worldwide.

Guerrillas attack Israeli allies in South Lebanon

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas attacked an Israeli-backed militia post in South Lebanon Saturday and Israeli and allied forces hit back with artillery fire, security sources said. The guerrillas fired anti-tank missiles, rocket-propelled grenades and mortar bombs at the South Lebanon Army (SLA) position in Shoumarieh hill on the tip of Israel's self-declared "security zone," they said. Israeli and SLA artillery retaliated by lobbing about 10 heavy shells near a cluster of villages where guerrillas of the pro-Iranian group Hizbollah operate north of the buffer zone. No casualties were reported. Hizbollah's military wing, the Islamic Resistance, claimed responsibility for the attack in which it said its forces destroyed a tank.

Gulf police seize one tonne of hashish

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi and Kuwaiti police have recently seized a tonne of hashish which was destined for sale in Kuwait, the Saudi newspaper Okaz reported Saturday. The drug traffickers were arrested in Kuwait which they entered from Saudi Arabia, the daily said quoting the assistant director of the Saudi narcotics bureau, Darwish Fakhiha. The number and nationalities of the suspects were not revealed.

Cuban foreign minister visits Peking

PEKING (AFP) — Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez arrived here Saturday for a one-week visit at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen. Xinhua news agency reported. Mr. Robaina was met at the airport by Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huaqing. The two foreign ministers are expected to discuss bilateral ties, regional and international issues, as well as the domestic situation in their respective countries, official agency said. Mr. Qian, also Chinese vice premier, said Thursday the Cuban foreign minister's visit offered a "good chance" to promote the development of bilateral relations, adding the two sides could discuss ways to further economic cooperation. Cuba was the first Latin American country to establish diplomatic relations with China in 1960, but relations between the two communist nations soon turned sour after the rupture between Peking and Moscow.

Japanese minister gets \$100 bill as birthday present

TOKYO (AP) — Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi, who has been fighting against speculative moves daily on the foreign exchange market, received a \$100 bill from his daughter as a birthday gift. "It's up to papa whether it will gain further value or not," Hayashi's daughter Reiko wrote in a short message to her father, who turned 66. Mr. Hayashi, his son and a secretary to his father, said Reiko's gift to their father, who has been struggling to stem the Japanese yen's rapid rise against the dollar in recent months.

General who ridiculed Clinton to retire

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The air force general who ridiculed President Bill Clinton during a speech in Europe will retire after accepting a fine and reprimand, the U.S. Air Force said. Major General Harold Campbell agreed to retire on July 1 after an air force investigation found he violated military rules forbidding contempt for the president. General Campbell, a highly decorated Vietnam War veteran, called Mr. Clinton a "pot-smoking" "womanizing," and "draft-dodging" commander-in-chief at an awards banquet several weeks ago in the Netherlands. In a letter to Defence Secretary Les Aspin, Air Force Chief of Staff General Merrill McPeak said the decision "will sustain integrity and respect for the chain of command." Mr. Clinton said of the decision, "I think General McPeak handled it in the appropriate fashion."

U.S. taxpayers will not finance Chelsea's Japan visit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House said U.S. taxpayers won't pay the extra costs for Chelsea Clinton and some friends if President Bill Clinton decides to take his daughter along next month. Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said it hasn't been decided whether Chelsea and her pals will accompany her dad and mother. In any event, their ground costs, meaning hotels, food and transportation, "will not be paid for by the federal government," Mr. Myers said. The air fare would be free if they accompany the president. Traditionally, presidents are allowed as many "official guests" as they want on the presidential Jumbo Jetliner, which has plenty of seats.

Priest accused of mental incompetence carried away

OMAHA, Nebraska (AFP) — A Roman Catholic priest accused of mental incompetence was carried away screaming from his church Friday after ignoring a court order to quit as pastor, witnesses said. Six sheriff's deputies carried away the priest, Richard Clurej, from St. Peter's Church in Omaha. "He was screaming and they had him put off the ground and head he was saying, 'help me, help me,'" said Elaine Russell, a friend of Fr. Clurej's. The priest, who has been the church's pastor since 1979, was taken to an Omaha mental health centre, said Sheriff Tim Dempsey. The Archdiocese of Omaha claims the 64-year-old priest has neglected personal responsibilities and damaged the church. Church officials had repeatedly asked him to seek mental help. Critics in his congregation said Fr. Clurej was too busy for weddings and services for the infirm because he was redoing the wiring and plumbing at the church. He also installed surveillance cameras at the church.

Answering machine confession leads to arrest of suspect

ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AFP) — A gruesome message left apparently by mistake on a couple's answering machine, saying "I've killed my caretaker. He's in the refrigerator," led to the arrest this week of a murder suspect, police said. Police arrested Francis Perlmutter, 39, and charged him in the murder of Robert Frandsen, 67, whose body was found Monday in a refrigerator. Authorities said Mr. Perlmutter, a 39-year-old man, dialed a wrong number and left a taped confession on the answering machine of Lisa and Brian Bram of suburban Eagan, Minnesota. The couple did not know Mr. Perlmutter.

Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein

The 11th International Medical Convention
June 20-25, 1993

Sponsored by the national Arab-American Medical Association and the University of Jordan Medical School.

In association with the Jordan Medical Association, the Ministry of Health, the Royal Medical Services and the Jordan University of Science and Technology.

Scientific sessions:

Monday, June 21, 1993 Location

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Cardiovascular Diseases | King Hussein Medical Centre |
| 2. Orthopaedic Surgery | Marriott Hotel |
| 3. Obstetrics and Gynecology | Jordan University School of Engineering (Hall A) |
| 4. Surgery | Jordan University School of Engineering (Hall B) |
| 5. Pathology | Jordan University School of Engineering (Hall C) |

Tuesday June 22, 1993 Location

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Cardiovascular Diseases | King Hussein Medical Centre |
| 2. Orthopaedic Surgery | Marriott Hotel |
| 3. Gastroenterology | Jordan University School of Engineering (Hall A) |
| 4. Obstetrics and Gynecology | Jordan University School of Engineering (Hall B) |
| 5. Pediatrics | Jordan University School of Engineering (Hall C) |

Thursday June 24, 1993 Location

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Cardiovascular Diseases | King Hussein Medical Centre |
| 2. Oncology | Jordan University School of Engineering (Hall A) |
| 3. Nephrology and Urology | Jordan University School of Engineering (Hall A) |
| 4. Endocrinology | Jordan University School of Engineering (Hall B) |

All sessions are from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

All doctors are welcome, no registered fee is required to attend the scientific sessions.

Brotherhood protests price hikes

BY P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood movement Saturday criticised the government over the recent increase in the price of kerosene and power tariffs in line with Jordan's economic restructuring programme and accused the executive authority of going beyond what it described as a caretaker capacity.

It was the latest salvo against the government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali by the Brotherhood, which is locked in a conflict with the Cabinet over the 20-month-old peace process and possible changes to the Election Law.

The Brotherhood, which rejects any dealings with Israel, opposes the peace process saying negotiations with the Jewish state cannot produce an equitable settlement to the Palestinian conflict.

The Islamists, who have the largest parliamentary wing with 23 seats in the 80-member Lower House, also rule out any government-introduced changes to the Election Law. They argue that any amendment to the law should have parliamentary endorsement.

"As soon as this government took office, it moved to increase the prices of basic commodities such as fuel (kerosene) by 20 per cent and electricity by 14 per cent in addition to 19 other items," a statement issued by the Brotherhood said Saturday.

"The increases add to the burden of the poor, who are already straining under high costs of living," added the statement.

"We would like to remind the government of the pledges made by previous governments that prices of basic commodities will not be increased without parliamentary approval," the statement said.

It accused the government of "ignoring the existence of Parliament and using the recess of Parliament to implement its decisions."

Parliament recessed in March ahead of the next elections, expected to be held later this year. Deputies maintain that their term does not expire until the elections and as such the government is dutybound to call an extraordinary session if needed to discuss important issues.

However, a Brotherhood-led effort to get 41 signatories from the House to demand an extraordinary session has not borne fruit.

The sharpest attack against the Majali government, which took office May 29, came in the context of what the Brotherhood sees as a limited mandate given to the Cabinet.

The letter of appointment given to Dr. Majali by His Majesty King Hussein is interpreted by the Brotherhood and similar groups as designating the government as transitional and entrusting it with supervising the next general elections and maintaining and accelerating the peace process.

"We remind the government of its temporary status which does not allow it to adopt policies that are adopted by more permanent governments," said the Brotherhood statement.

Dr. Majali and members of his Cabinet have rejected the assertion that the government has only a caretaker capacity. They have warned against taking it for granted that the government would resign after the elections and affirmed that the possibility of it continuing in office after the polls has not been precluded.

No government official was immediately available for comment on the latest Brotherhood criticism. But officials have said that the price increase have built-in provisions to ensure that the poor are not taxed.

They say that a mechanism to compensate genuine users of kerosene will spare the poorer class and point out that the hike in power tariffs applies only to consumers of 300 kilowatts or more per month — a

parameter seen as not applicable to the low-income group.

They also maintain that the changes to the consumption law structure do not mean an immediate increase in prices since the tax was already in force for more than one year.

The goods covered under the levy, they say, are not basic commodities.

The officials say that the implementation of these measures were inevitable since they were part of Jordan's economic recovery programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Without adopting these actions, they argue, Jordan could not hope to secure the mandatory IMF certification for its debt rescheduling talks and have access to a \$160 million World Bank/Japanese credit.

The Brotherhood statement, issued in the name of the parliamentary bloc of the movement, did not refer to the government explanations.

A leftist group, the Jordanian Democratic People's Party, issued a similar statement last week, criticising the price increases.

The Brotherhood, however, did not seek to assume a championing role against the price hikes. It called on "all our colleagues in Parliament and all political forces and groups to declare their opposition to the present government's policies and try to change them."

It said that the price increases had wiped the positive impact of the recent increments given to civil servants and insisted that "any price increases should go hand in hand with raising the standard of living."

The statement argued that the price increases will reduce consumption and as a result no new investments would be forthcoming.

"Increases in cost of living," said the statement, "will lead to insecurity and instability in society — an outcome that will hurt World Bank and IMF help."